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ON THE COVER: Lesser White-fronted Goose, a species in decline, is known from very few records in North America. This bird appeared 21-26 (here 22) June on St. Paul Island, Alaska, where it was Alaska's second, the first having been identified at Attu in 1994. *Photograph by Doug Gochfeld.*

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This Long-billed Dowitcher (accompanied by a Short-billed Dowitcher, left) was photographed at Pointe-de-l'Est, Québec 27 July 2013, furnishing a very rare record for the Magdalen Islands. *Photograph by Alain Richard.*

Conservation and at-sea range of Bermuda Petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*)

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Bermuda Petrel about 6 kilometers off Bermuda, November 2013. *Photograph by Kirk Zufelt.*

Abstract

This paper summarizes past and recent conservation work on the endangered Bermuda Petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*), or Cahow, and includes new information on its at-sea range. Believed extinct since 1620, the species was discovered nesting in 1951 on several small rocky islets in Bermuda, where initially just seven pairs were found. For nearly five decades thereafter, David B. Wingate made it his life's mission to save the species from extinction, improving burrows to limit deadly nest-site competition with White-tailed Tropicbirds (*Phaethon lepturus catesbyi*), building and maintaining dozens of artificial burrows, and restoring an entire larger island, Nonsuch, to its precolonial state, in preparation for nesting Bermuda Petrels, whose low-lying nesting islands were threatened by storm damage and sea-level rise. By 2000, when Bermuda's next Conservation Officer, Jeremy Madeiros, took on the Cahow Recovery Program, the petrel's population had increased steadily, but the species was still classified as Critically Endangered. In 2004, Madeiros initiated a multi-year translocation project, bringing chicks from the smaller islets to Nonsuch, and this program, now its eleventh year, has produced positive results, with the number of nesting pairs nearly doubling in just over a decade. Madeiros has also conducted a study of Bermuda Petrels' movements at sea, using data-logger technology, revealing for the first time the species' at-sea range—critical to conservation of foraging areas, which could face pressure from a range of resource extraction operations, from fishing to oil exploration projects.

Cahow conservation: The twentieth century

Bermuda Petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*), a critically endangered gadfly petrel known as the Cahow in Bermuda (Frontispiece), has only in recent times shed its near-mythic status and become more familiar to biologists and birders. Harvested for food by Spanish sailors, then by British settlers in the early seventeenth century, Bermuda Petrels were eventually unable to nest on most of Bermuda, where rats, hogs, cats, and dogs killed chicks and adults alike. The population declined rapidly, and the species was considered extinct by about 1620.

In the twentieth century, the discovery of dead or dying individual Bermuda Petrels in 1906, 1935, and 1945 inspired hope that the species had persisted unseen through the centuries. When Robert Cushman Murphy of the American Museum of Natural History received and identified a study skin of a Bermuda Petrel in 1945, he began raising funds for a small expedition to Bermuda in search of the long-lost petrel. Murphy and his wife Grace E. B. Murphy arrived on Bermuda 23 January 1951 and were accompanied in searches by the Director of the Bermuda Aquarium, Louis S. Mowbray, and by David B. Wingate (Figure 1), then a 15-year-old student. The dramatic rediscovery of breeding birds on a few tiny rocky islets near Castle Harbour was immortalized in media around the world by Murphy's utterance on 28 January—"By gad the Cahow!"—as the first bird was brought out from its burrow. Only seven pairs were found by the expedition, and it was clear then that the species was indeed perilously close to extinction (Murphy and Murphy 1951).

The moment of the petrel's rediscovery sparked Wingate's decision to dedicate his working career to keeping this species alive. The extraordinary story of his forty-year career as Conservation Officer has been recounted in articles, books, and documentaries, including the recent biography *Rare Birds* (Gehrman

2012) and documentary film *Rare Bird* (Afflare Films 2006). Among Wingate's many contributions to protecting the petrels and increasing their population (Figure 2), several are particularly notable. To prevent the killing of petrel chicks by White-tailed Tropicbirds (*Phaethon lepturus catesbyi*), which compete with petrels for nest sites, Wingate refined the design of nest-site "bafflers" first engineered by Richard Pough and Richard Thorsell (Ward 2012). Bafflers are boards with carefully shaped apertures, placed at the entrance to burrows, which allow petrels to enter but not the larger tropicbirds (Figure 3). The series of bafflers had to be perfected, maintained, and refined constantly over the years, and they are still used on almost all nest burrows in 2014.

Wingate recognized that erosion, tropical cyclones, and sea-level rise imperiled nest sites on many of the low-lying islets in particular (Figure 4) and so devised and, with work crews, constructed artificial burrows on higher ground for the petrels—70 such structures had been completed by the time of his official retirement in 2000 (Figure 5). These structures were better able to withstand the elements, excluded tropicbirds, and increased the number of available nest sites; the petrel population responded quickly and positively to its new "government housing complex." Removable concrete lids on the artificial burrows permitted excellent opportunities for close observation of nesting activities and for easy extraction and examination of young birds that might be having difficulties.

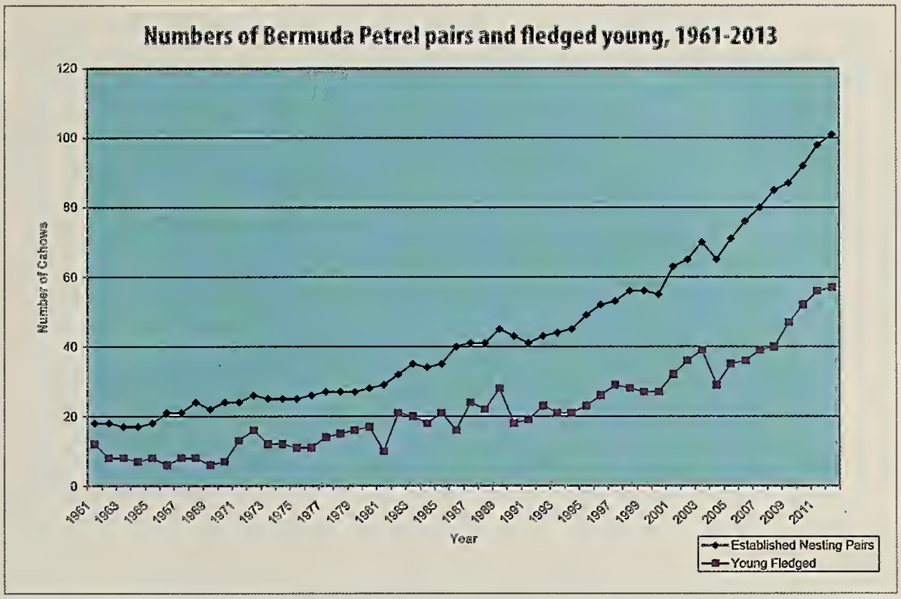


Figure 2. Number of breeding pairs (dark blue) and fledged young over the period 1961–2013. The first doubling of the population took about a quarter of a century, the second took less than 20 years, and the next doubling promises to happen even more quickly. *Graphic by Leila Madeiros.*

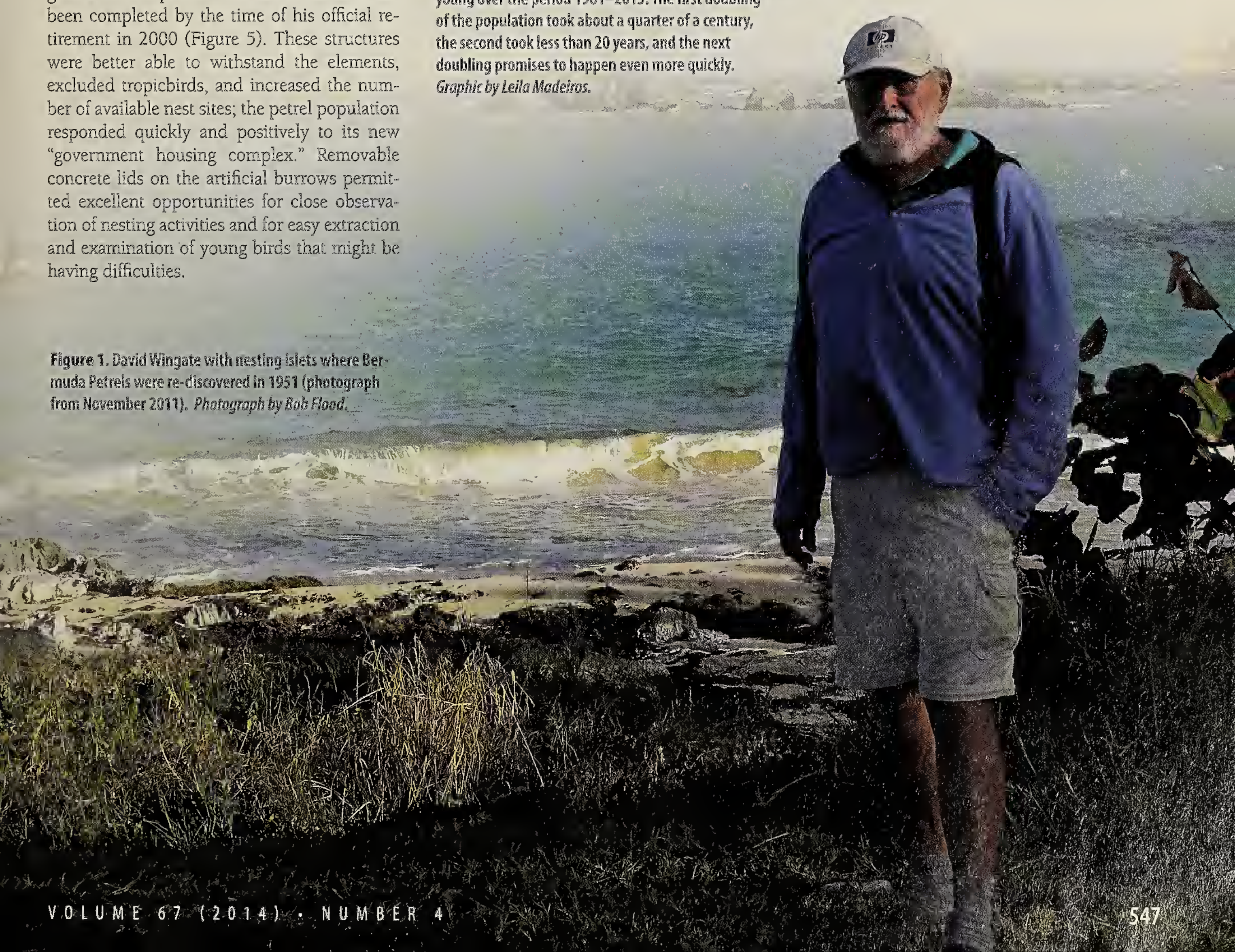


Figure 1. David Wingate with nesting islets where Bermuda Petrels were re-discovered in 1951 (photograph from November 2011). *Photograph by Bob Flood.*

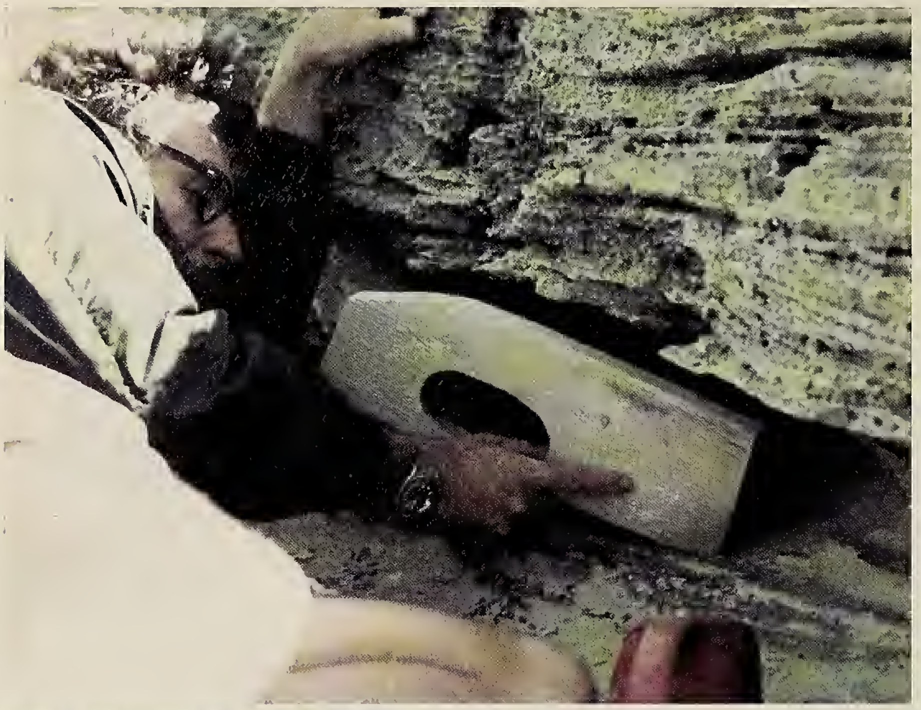


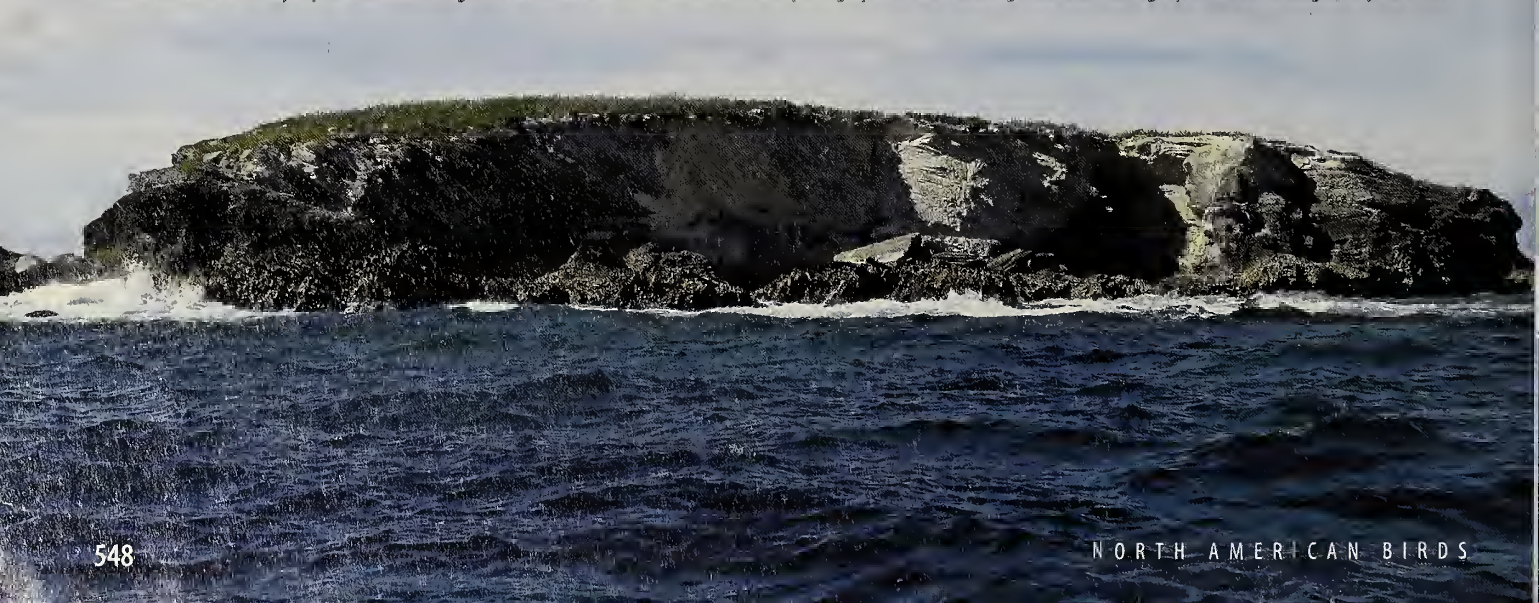
Figure 3. David Wingate installing a baffler on a Bermuda Petrel burrow in the 1980s. *Photograph from the David Wingate archive.*

These two measures, protecting existing nest sites and creating new ones, bought time for the slowly recovering species, which in the 1960s and 1970s was plagued by the same DDT-induced eggshell thinning that caused catastrophic declines in populations of other seabirds and raptors (Wurster and Wingate 1968). By 2000, the population had increased manyfold to 53 pairs. For most of his tenure as Conservation Officer, Wingate observed a strict no-handling policy (except for ailing birds), so that the birds' natural instincts and behaviors would be less influenced by interactions with people involved in conservation activities and also so that no birds would be inadvertently harmed during handling. The nesting grounds were off limits except to conservation workers, and Wingate monitored the progress of each pair and chick for 43 breeding seasons, taking notes on all aspects of their breeding biology.

Every bit as remarkable as the careful monitoring and management of the nesting petrels, in what would be designated the Cahow Recovery Program, was Wingate's campaign for the Government of Bermuda to acquire Nonsuch Island and to permit its restoration to its rich precolonial ecology. Wingate, along with many working crews and his family and friends, achieved this vision over a span of three decades by removing most non-native species, planting endemic plant species, and then reintroducing extirpated native bird and animal species. Wingate hoped that one day Bermuda Petrels would return to nest at Nonsuch Island, where great numbers had nested into the late sixteenth century. By the turn of the twenty-first century, Nonsuch had transformed from a denuded, rat-infested rock to a verdant "living museum," a microcosmic reminder of what all of Bermuda had once looked like—and a place visited by nearly every Bermudian schoolchild on field trips since the 1990s. Nonsuch was maturing ecologically, nearly ready to host nesting Bermuda Petrels, and seabird conservation science was beginning to shift into high gear, with many technological advances now available to Bermuda's new Conservation Officer, Jeremy Madeiros, who succeeded Wingate in that position in 2000 after working with him for almost two decades on the project.

Wingate's contributions to bringing back the Bermuda Petrel from imminent extinction are difficult to overstate: seldom has the weight of a species' fate been balanced on one individual's shoulders. In addition to work around this species, Wingate worked tirelessly on conservation of Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Bermuda Rock Skink (*Plestiodon longirostris*), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), and Bermudian populations of Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), and White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*), as well as many invertebrate and plant species—a broad and energetic legacy that serves as a model to island ecologists and conservationists everywhere.

Figure 4. The eastern side of Horn Rock, one of the nesting islets, bears the brunt of pounding waves during fall hurricanes and winter gales. The old rock face is mid-gray in color; the whitish rock face is freshly exposed rock following wave-induced cliff falls. It is clear from this photograph that the breeding islets are suffering rapid erosion. *Photograph by Bob Flood.*



Cahow conservation: The twenty-first century

In his first days as Bermuda's new Conservation Officer in 2000, Madeiros began an extensive review of the main threats to the survival of Bermuda Petrel. This eventually led to the production of a Recovery Plan to guide future management of the species (Madeiros 2005). Since its rediscovery, the species was only known to have bred on five small, heavily eroded islets near the southeastern approaches of Castle Harbour. By 2000, these breeding islets—threatened by rising seas and increasingly frequent and more violent hurricanes and winter storms—had essentially reached the carrying capacity for breeding pairs. During the late 1990s, as a result of storms and surge, sections of some islets had completely collapsed, and it was clear that one or two of the islets could be lost as a result of a powerful hurricane. Even with the heartening recovery of the population over 50 years since the rediscovery, those gains were still not sufficient to ensure the survival of the species in the event of loss of major breeding stations, and a landfalling hurricane could also decimate the population, as apparently occurred as a result of Category 4 Hurricane *Hugo*, which struck Charleston, South Carolina 22 September 1990 (Wingate 1993). Much work still lay ahead.

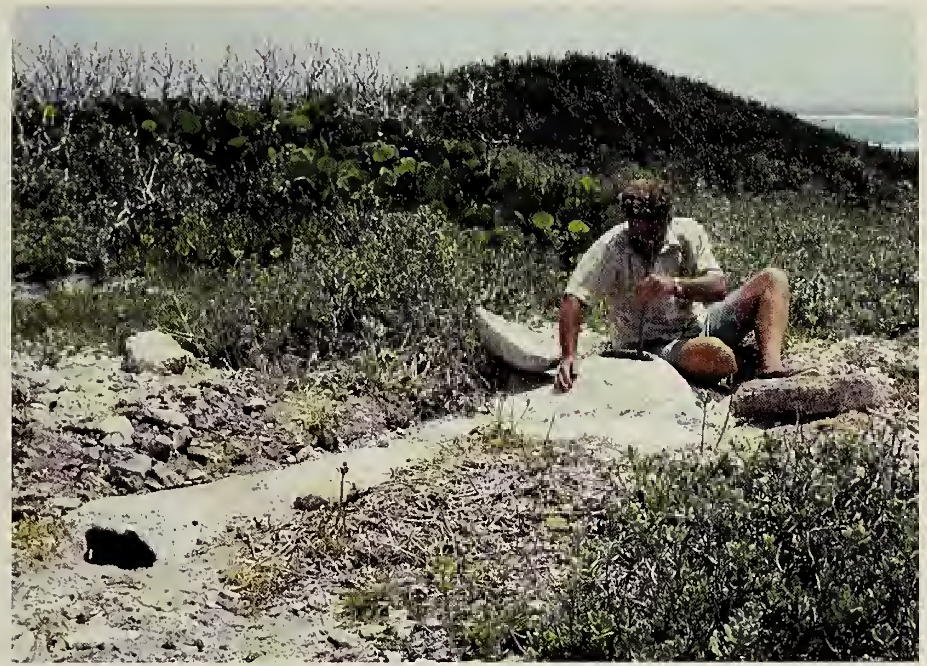


Figure 5. David Wingate inspects an artificial burrow for nesting Bermuda Petrels on one of the breeding islets (1980s). There are very few suitable crevices/burrows on the tiny breeding islets. Wingate constructed 70 artificial burrows on the breeding islets, thus increasing the number of breeding pairs over the 1970s through 1990s. Artificial burrows played an important role in the translocation program launched in 2004. *Photograph from the David Wingate archive.*

Consequently, despite some opposition, Madeiros saw translocation of petrel chicks to Nonsuch (Figure 6) as the most practical way to guard against the potential sudden loss of nest sites and indeed as an immediate imperative. Petrels could someday colonize Nonsuch on their own, surely, but would they do so before the population went into decline due to storm damage to the breeding islets? Madeiros believed that translocation of some chicks would hasten the process of colonization and avert the danger: petrels that fledged in artificial burrows on Nonsuch would be most likely to return to Nonsuch and there prospect breeding sites when nearing and attaining breeding age, at three to five years old. Such fidelity to their site of fledging is known as natal philopatry. The maturing habitats on Nonsuch presented ideal sites for translocation. Unlike the small breeding islets, which are mostly bare limestone, now-forested Nonsuch has soil in which the petrels could dig their own burrows. The first settlers on Bermuda observed that petrels dug their burrows under the roots of trees, much like rabbits in a warren. The trees' root systems support the burrows, preventing collapse. At 7 hectares (17 acres), Nonsuch could accommodate perhaps several thousand nesting pairs, far more than the smaller islets.

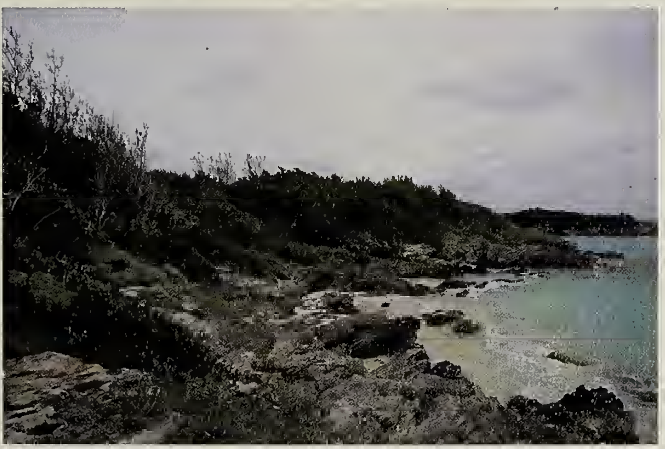


Figure 6. Site of translocation colony on Nonsuch Island (November 2013). *Photograph by Kirk Zufelt.*

Translocation is a technique used to establish breeding birds at an entirely new location or at a historical breeding location. It is achieved by transferring chicks at a critical point late in their development from the original site to the translocation site and subsequently feeding the chicks until fledging. Three weeks prior to fledging, chicks are placed into waterproof boxes (Figure 7), brought by boat to Nonsuch, and placed in artificial nest burrows (Figure 8). These burrows are grouped together to resemble a natural breeding colony. The chicks are then fed by hand with squid and fish (Figure 9), and their growth and development is monitored regularly through the pre-departure period (Figure 10). During this time, the near-fledgling comes out of its burrow at night to exercise its wings and, it is thought, to gaze at the night sky and surrounding landmarks to imprint upon and establish the location of the breeding island to which it will return. Translocation into artificial burrows offers the advantage of optimal nest sites with protection from tropicbirds and also the ability for conservation managers to gather vital information on individuals and the population and to intervene quickly when problems arise.

In setting up the translocation project, Madeiros had generous assistance from Nicholas Carlile, who had carried out such projects with the similar Gould's Petrel (*Pterodroma l. leucoptera*) in Australia (Figure 11). For five breeding seasons, from 2003–2004 through 2007–2008, Madeiros translocated half of the total output of chicks produced by the small population to Nonsuch, a total of 105 chicks in all. Of these, remarkably, 102 survived to fledging and departure. Based on results from

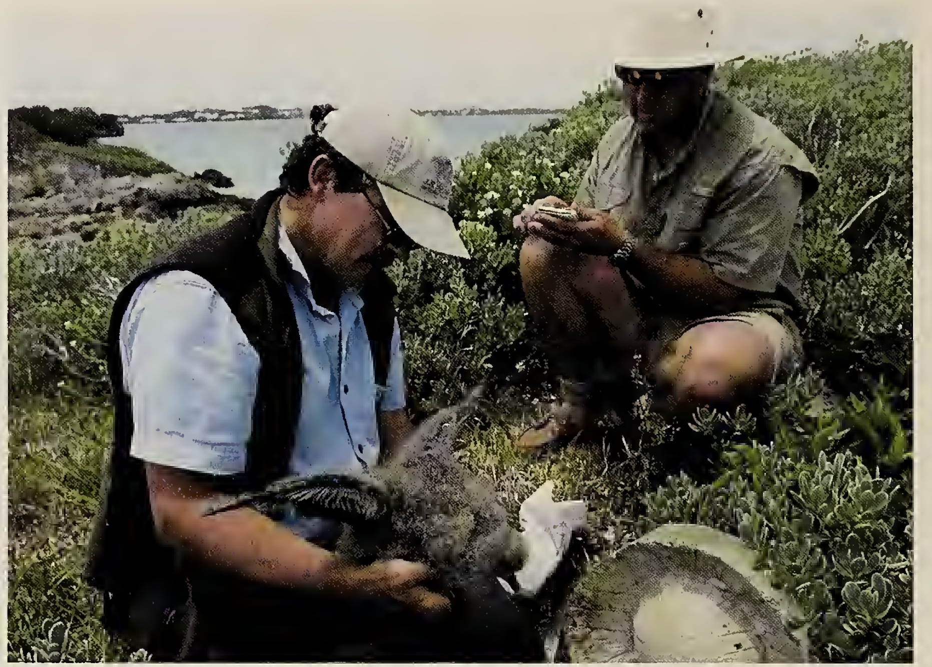


Figure 8. Jeremy Madeiros and Peter Drew transfer a Bermuda Petrel near-fledgling to its artificial burrow on Nonsuch Island, 16 May 2008. *Photograph from the Jeremy Madeiros archive.*

Carlile's and others' work, Madeiros estimated that it would take about 100 birds to establish a new colony, which in due course would begin nesting activities and also recruit new birds from the other nearby breeding islands. In gadfly petrels, about a third of fledglings survive and return to breed, and banding studies initiated by Madeiros in 2002 have confirmed that between 28% and 38% of adult-raised chicks survive their first years at sea to return eventually to the breeding islands. As a result, there was some concern that even the intensive five-year effort might not be sufficient to "seed" the new colony. To enhance the attractiveness of Nonsuch to prospective breeding petrels, including petrels not translocated there, Madeiros installed a solar-powered, weatherproof sound system called a Murremaid, which broadcast recorded courtship calls at night during the breeding season, from October through June. Gadfly petrels and other tubenoses are strongly attracted by sounds of courtship, and indeed the earliest settlers to Bermuda discovered that the birds were very easily caught by singing or making loud cries (see Gehrman 2012). During this phase of the Cahow Recovery Project, Madeiros also banded both adult and fledgling petrels to allow identification of individuals, so that more data on breeding biology, nest site fidelity, pair bonds, and longevity could be obtained. This banding program has been so successful that over 85% of the adult breeding population, and more than 80% of all chicks fledged since 2002, have now been fitted with identification bands.

Despite many real obstacles during the translocation, and not a little trepidation, the project began to bear fruit. The first translocated Bermuda Petrel returned to Nonsuch in February 2008, to whoops of joy from Madeiros and his team. By June 2013, 47 translocated petrels had returned to Bermuda, 29 of those to nest sites on Nonsuch. Petrels have now returned from all five years of the first phase of the translocation project (Madeiros 2013). In the 2008–2009 season, in fact, a pair of translocated birds successfully raised a chick on Nonsuch, the first to hatch and be reared naturally on that island in nearly 400 years (Figures 12a, 12b). This young pair's success was unexpected, as most pairs fail in their first nesting attempt. In that season, three additional pairs occupied burrows on Nonsuch, and since that time, the little colony has flourished (Table 1,

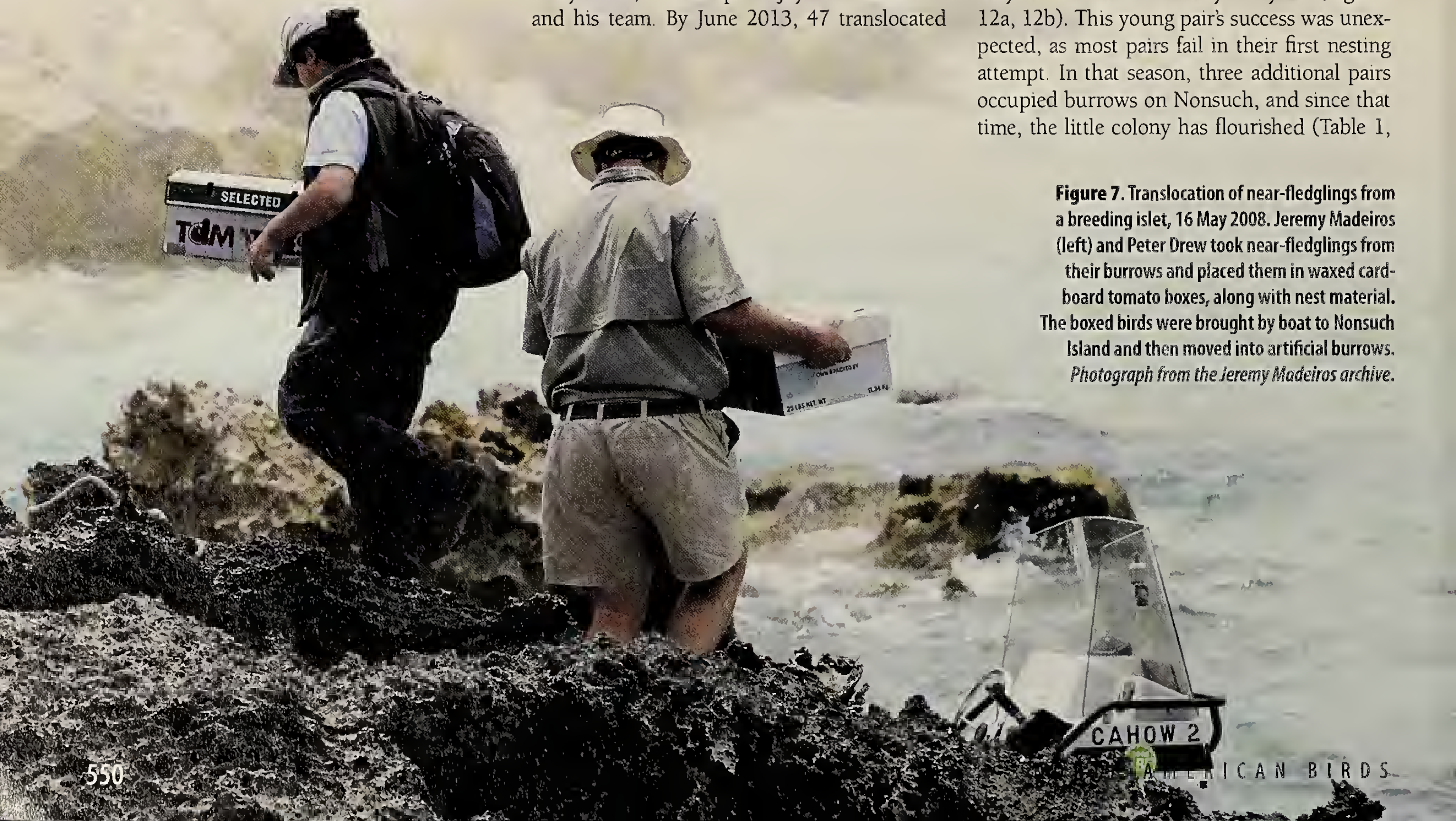


Figure 7. Translocation of near-fledglings from a breeding islet, 16 May 2008. Jeremy Madeiros (left) and Peter Drew took near-fledglings from their burrows and placed them in waxed cardboard tomato boxes, along with nest material. The boxed birds were brought by boat to Nonsuch Island and then moved into artificial burrows. *Photograph from the Jeremy Madeiros archive.*

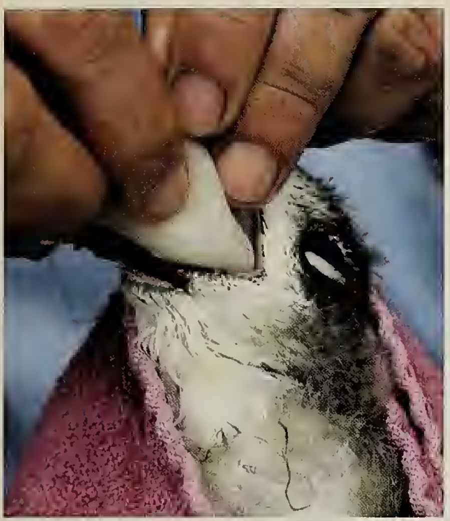


Figure 9 (left). Jeremy Madeiros assumed the primary role in caring for the translocated near-fledglings, which are fed a diet of squid and fish during their final weeks in the artificial burrows. *Photograph from the Jeremy Madeiros archive.*

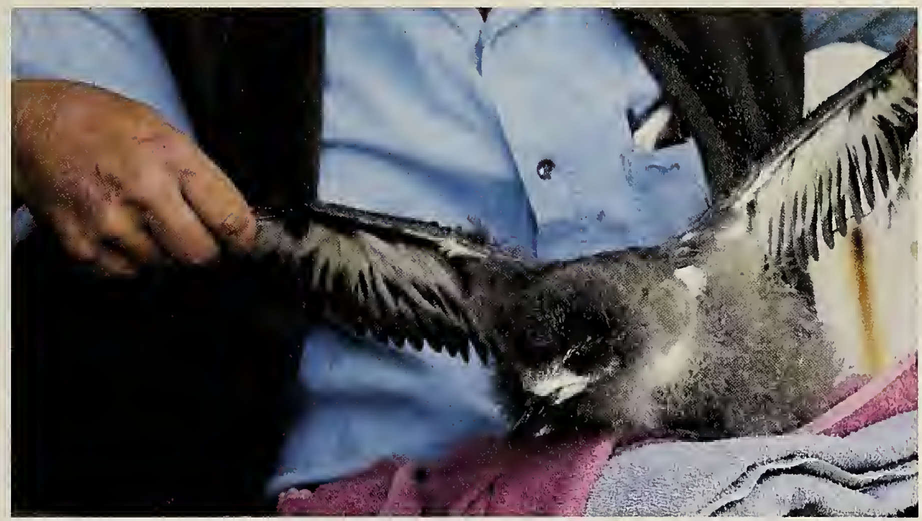


Figure 10 (right). As they shed their natal down and ready themselves for their first flight, Bermuda Petrels are carefully monitored for proper growth and development to ensure that they depart Bermuda in good health. *Photograph from the Jeremy Madeiros archive.*

page 552). By the 2011–2012 breeding season, at least three non-translocated birds had been attracted to Nonsuch, with two pairing up with translocated birds to form new nesting pairs (Madeiros 2012, Carlile et al. 2012, Madeiros et al. 2012). By the 2013–2014 nesting season, at least nine non-translocated birds had been attracted to Nonsuch, with five pairing up with translocated birds to form nesting pairs. The total number of breeding pairs (producing an egg) on Nonsuch had risen to fourteen, with nine chicks having hatched by late March 2014. The expectation is that the birds will return to old nesting habits and dig burrows in the forested areas of Nonsuch, where the ecological restoration project started in the 1960s continues to this day.

During the breeding season of 2012–2013,

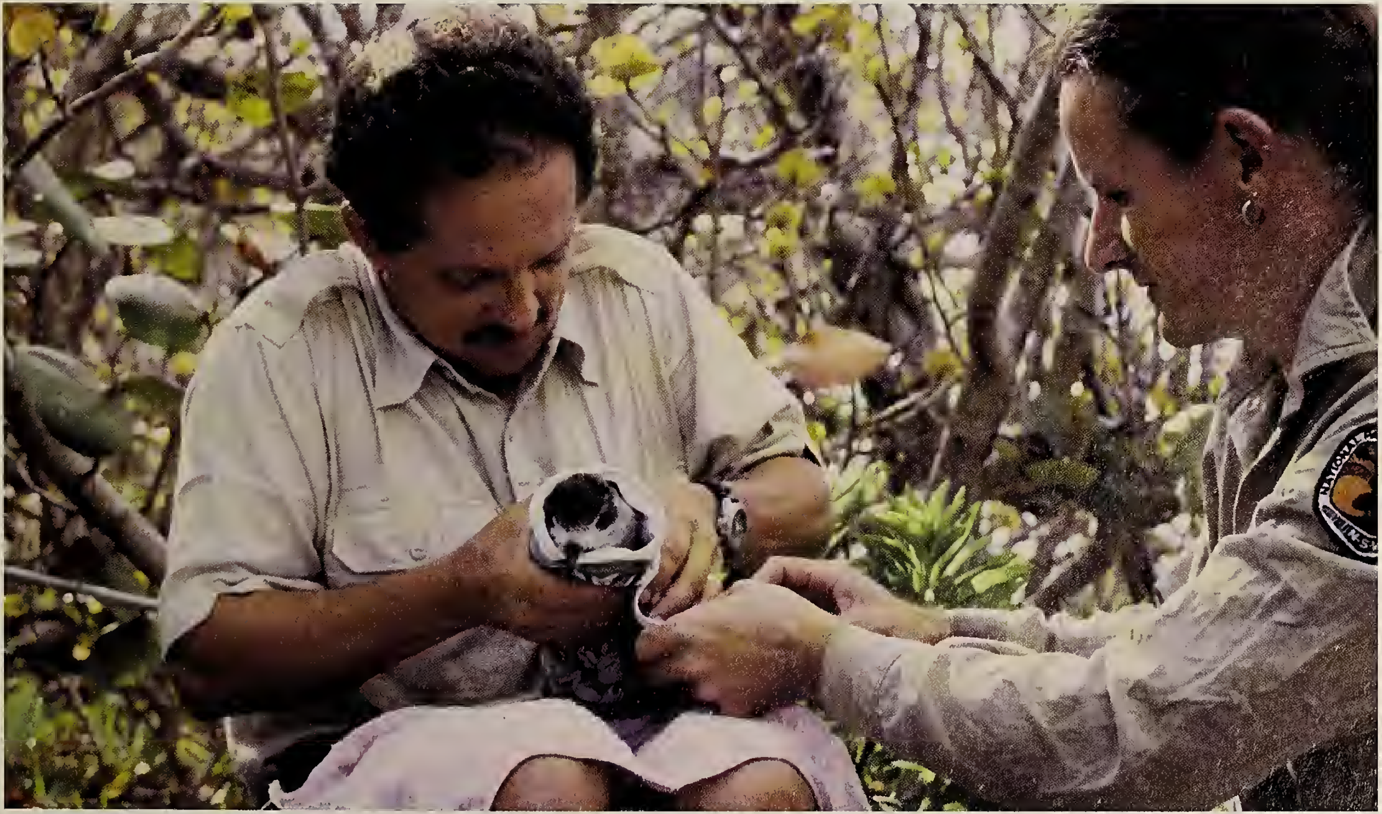


Figure 11. Nicholas Carlile (right), who pioneered translocation projects in Australia with Gould's Petrel, was instrumental in the design and execution of the Bermuda Petrel translocation project. Here, he and Jeremy Madeiros prepare a fledgling for a feed. *Photograph from the Jeremy Madeiros archive.*

Figures 12a (above), **12b** (below). A Bermuda Petrel called "Somers" was the first chick to hatch and successfully fledge from Nonsuch since about 1620, so far as is known. The event occurred during the quadricentennial of the settlement of Bermuda, so Somers was named after Admiral Sir George Somers, whose shipwreck on Bermuda 400 years before Somers' hatching led to the island's permanent settlement. Somers is seen here as a large chick (26 March 2009) at the nest burrow and as a near-fledgling during the pre-departure exercise period in June 2009. Somers flew out to sea for the first time on 17 June 2009. *Photographs from the Jeremy Madeiros archive.*

Table 1. Breeding results at the translocation colony on Nonsuch Island

Breeding season	Pairs	Fledged chicks
2008–2009	3	1
2009–2010	5	1
2010–2011	7	4
2011–2012	12	7
2012–2013	13	5
2013–2014	14	9

there were some setbacks for the species but also an unexpected windfall. Many chicks that were regularly monitored, including many on Nonsuch, were at lower weights than normal over much of their development, which may indicate a scarcity of normal prey items used by adults to provision chicks, possibly coupled with adverse weather conditions. During the 2012–2013 season, the second phase of the translocation project commenced on Nonsuch, with 14 chicks translocated and 12 successfully fledged at a new site overlooking the island's south beach. This project is also being conducted during the current (2013–2014) breeding season and will continue into subsequent seasons. In the 2012–2013 breeding season, in a surprising stroke of fortune, three petrel

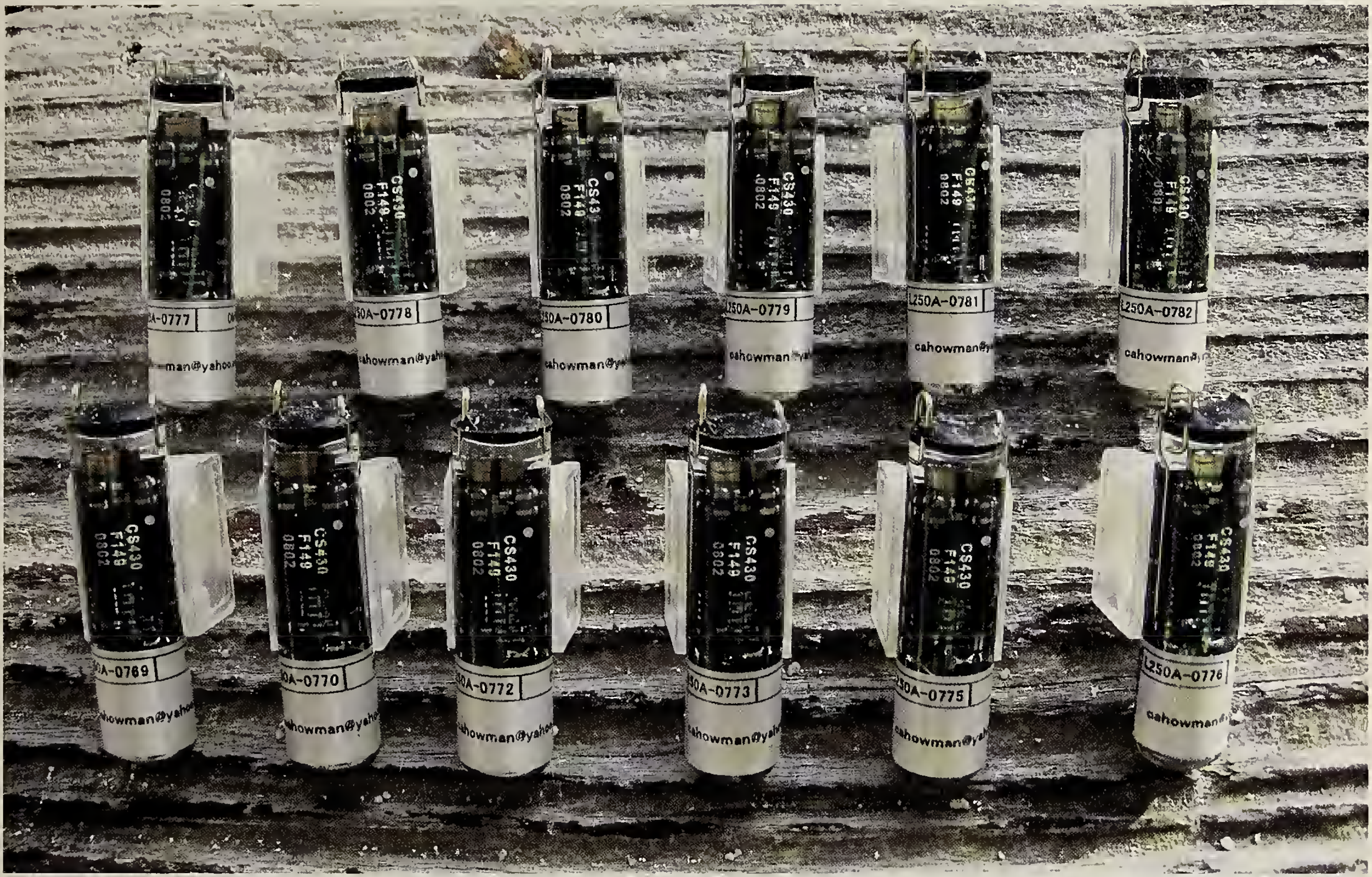


Figure 13. Lotek archival data-loggers record sea surface temperature when the bird lands on the water and also record light levels. The first data-loggers weighed almost 5 g, but a newer version used in 2011 weighed only 2 g and were about the size of a thumbnail. *Photograph from the Jeremy Madeiros archive.*

Figure 14. Data-loggers are attached to a leg, then recovered when the petrel returns to the burrow during subsequent breeding seasons. All the data-loggers used in the Bermuda Petrel study were recovered, and there is no indication that the birds suffered any detrimental effects from them. *Photograph from the Jeremy Madeiros archive.*

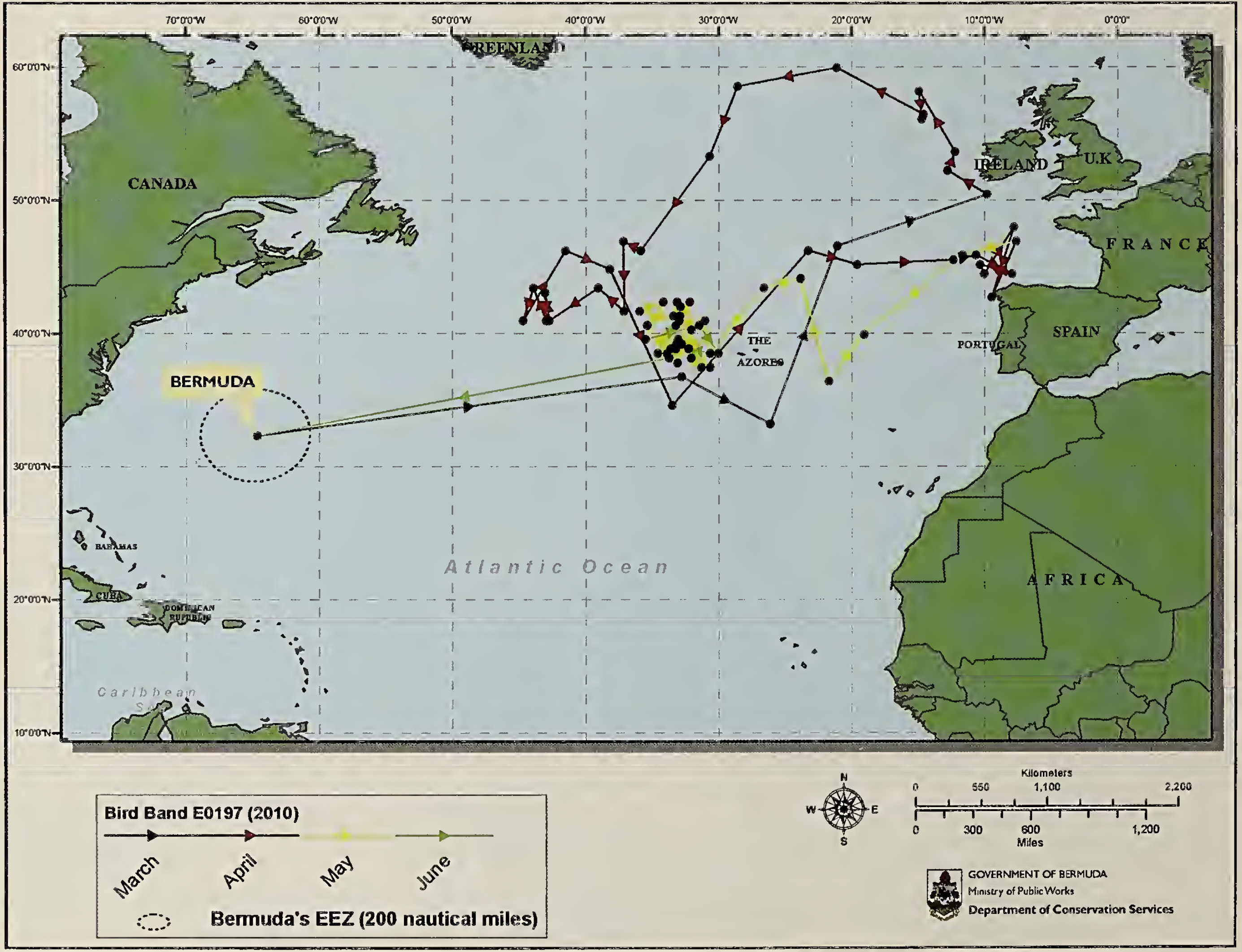
pairs colonized Southampton Island, known to be a nesting site during early colonial times but not since then. It is nearly the same size as all of the original breeding islets put together, is more isolated from the mainland than Nonsuch, making it more difficult for rats to reach, and it is difficult to land on, reducing human disturbance (Madeiros 2013).

The breeding successes of translocated Bermuda Petrels bodes well for the long-term survival of the species and has generated guarded optimism among those involved in its conservation. An interesting footnote to the recent pioneering of Southampton Island comes from Ilhéu da Vila, an islet off Santa Maria in the Azores, where a Bermuda Petrel was found on 17 November 2002, captured in a burrow (and banded), and located again four days later about 20 meters from the original burrow (Bried and Magalhães 2004). It was noted at the same site again on 19 and 21 November 2003 and 12 and 13 December 2006 (Gantlett 2004, 2007). This is the only terrestrial record of the species away from Bermuda (Brinkley 2014).

With the strong conservation successes on the breeding islands at the turn of the century and beyond, Madeiros has begun to investigate the mystery of the species' ecology at sea. Other than single photographic records off Virginia, Massachusetts, and Nova Scotia and about 25 records off the Carolinas, little was known about the species' at-sea range, either during the breeding season or outside that season. Given the species' still small population, conservatively estimated at no more than 350 individuals, knowledge about the pelagic range of Bermuda Petrel is vital in the event of proposed resource extraction projects offshore, whether for marine life, minerals, oil, or natural gas.

For these reasons, Madeiros began a program to fit Lotek data-loggers (Figure 13) on some adult petrels in the 2009–2010 season and concluded the program in the 2011–2012 season (Madeiros 2012). These tiny devices are affixed to the leg (Figure 14) and record data on light levels, so that a bird's daily position can be estimated. Data from the device are transferred to a computer when the petrel returns to the colony, creating a record of its movements (Figure 15). The technology is still improving, and current devices are accurate to within about 150 kilometers on average (Phillips et al. 2004). Another limitation of these data loggers is that latitude readings during the spring and autumn equinox periods (mainly in March and September) become erratic for a period of about three weeks, as there is very little variation in day length (Ekstrom 2004). This required many of the position fixes during these periods to be excluded. Nevertheless, information from data-loggers has revealed much about the foraging ranges of adult Bermuda Petrels (Madeiros 2010, 2012, 2013). Through June 2011, 10 of the 12 data-loggers attached to adults were recovered, and of these, nine had usable data. Analysis of the data (Figures 15-17) indicated three main concentration points during chick provisioning: waters off North Carolina, waters south and east of Nova Scotia, and the central Atlantic northeast of Bermuda. There were also two distinct foraging areas during the nonbreeding season (six birds). Four birds spent most of their time in the vicinity of the Azores, one of them foraging off northwestern Europe for several weeks to within about 200 kilometers southwest of

Figure 15 (below). Approximate locations and routes of an adult Bermuda Petrel fitted with a Lotek data-logger, March through June 2010. *Graphic by Mandy Shailer.*
Figure 16 (next page, top). Location point density of Bermuda Petrels fitted with Lotek data-loggers, January 2009 through December 2010. *Graphic by Mandy Shailer.*
Figure 17 (next page, bottom). Pelagic range of Bermuda Petrel based on data from Lotek data-loggers, 2009–2012. Most data from around the spring and fall equinox periods have been excluded. Transit from Bermuda to foraging areas around the Azores (about 4000 km from Bermuda) appears to be mostly via a southerly route, whereas the return flight occurs at higher latitudes. *Graphic by Mandy Shailer.*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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
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Caribbean Sea
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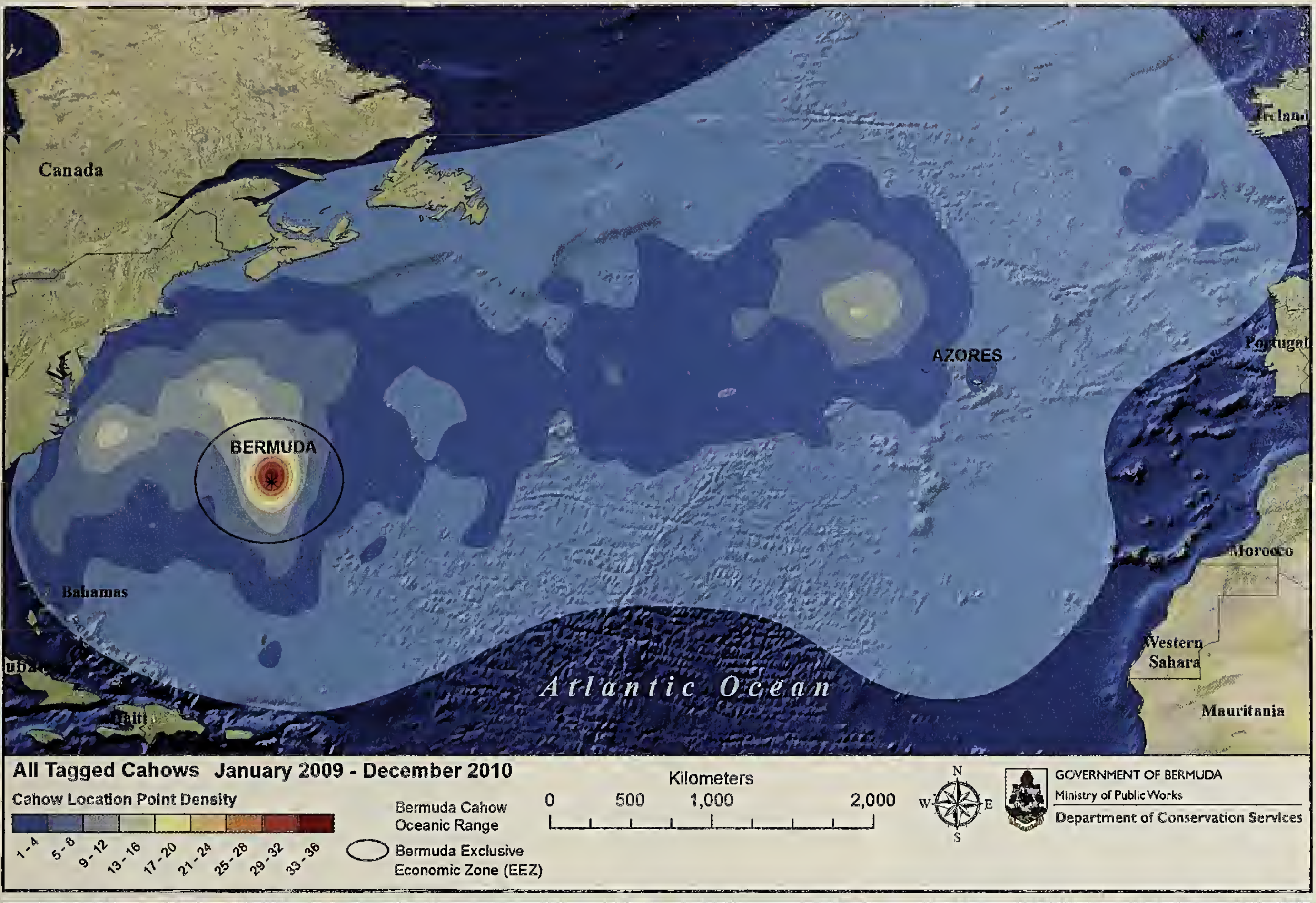
Department of Conservation Services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Cuba
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Western Sahara
Mauritania
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All Tagged Cahows January 2009 - December 2010
Cahow Location Point Density
1-4
5-8
9-12
13-16
17-20
21-24
25-28
29-32
33-36
Bermuda Cahow Oceanic Range
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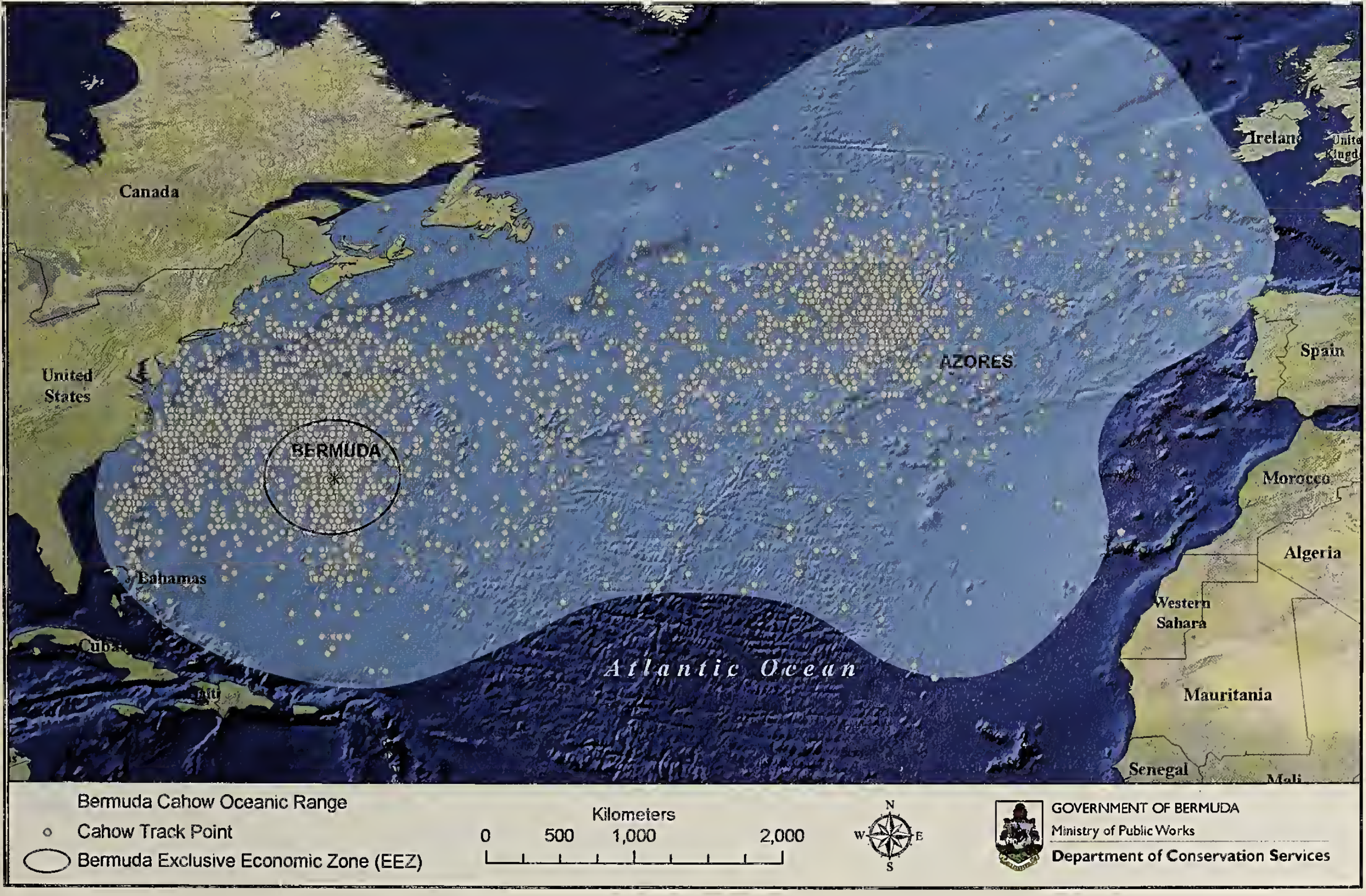
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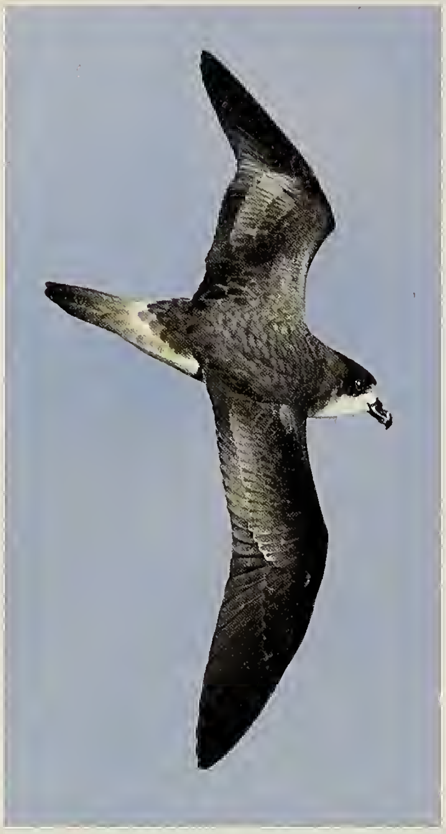

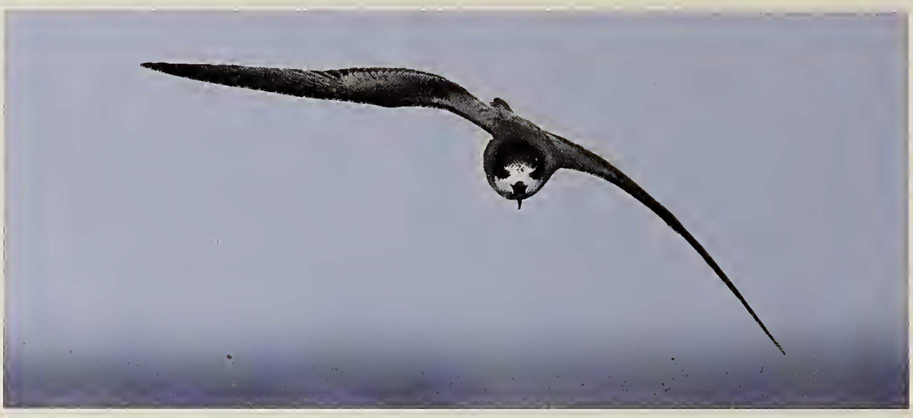

Figure 18 (left). Bermuda Petrel about 6 kilometers off Bermuda, November 2013. Blackish-gray tones on the head typically appear to merge with the dark gray nape to form a dark cowl, unlike in Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*). The mantle, scapulars, and back are medium to dark gray, with subtle scaling made by blackish-gray fringes in fresh plumage. The rump and rearmost scapulars are blackish-gray and contribute to the dark M pattern across the outstretched upperwings. On the upperwings, the coverts and remiges are dark gray and often appear uniformly dark but can show an indistinct dark M pattern, as here. The uppertail coverts are dark gray with a variable amount of white at the bases forming a pale band across the base of the tail. The rectrices are dark gray. In ventral aspect (see Frontispiece), long white undertail coverts extend almost to the tip of the tail, giving the rear portion of the body an attenuated appearance. The dark remiges, marginal coverts, many lesser coverts, and ulnar bars contrast with snowy white coverts in the interior of the wing. *Photograph by Kirk Zufelt.*

Figure 19 (above). Bermuda Petrel about 6 kilometers off Bermuda, November 2013. Among Atlantic gadfly petrels, Bermuda Petrel is closest in proportions to Zino's Petrel (*Pterodroma madeira*), which is also relatively petite and small-billed but which typically has pearly gray (not dark gray or blackish) rectrices and usually predominantly dark underwing coverts, though some Zino's show underwing patterns approaching those of Bermuda Petrel. A thorough study of both dorsal and ventral plumage aspects is important to confirm identification of most *Pterodroma* species. *Photograph by Kirk Zufelt.*

Seeing Cahows in Bermuda • Field identification of Bermuda Petrel was first addressed by David Wingate, Brian Patteson, Todd Hass, and Edward Brinkley following the first records off North Carolina and South Carolina (both on 31 July 1993) and the first offshore Bermuda record (since colonial times) made by the same group 13 November 1993 (Wingate et al. 1998). More recently, identification criteria have been refined using modern-day digital photography and videography (Howell 2012, Flood and Fisher 2013; Figures 18, 19). These more recent publications have addressed identification criteria for separating Bermuda Petrel from the variable and sometimes similar Zino's Petrel (*P. madeira*) of the eastern North Atlantic.

Bermuda Petrels are most reliably seen near the breeding islands during the early part of their breeding cycle, which commences in mid-October. From late October through late November, afternoon hours have proven to be a good time to watch for petrels, either from Coopers Point with a spotting scope or, ideally, from a boat near the approaches to the breeding islands near Castle Roads. Birds gather offshore in small numbers in the afternoon and are often involved in courtship behaviors, interacting in the air and calling, especially on windy days. On occasion, four or five can be seen in close association, but normally fewer are seen together. Lingering birds are likely immatures practicing courtship and looking for mates, whereas adults in established pairs probably fly directly to the burrow after nightfall. In December, there is a pre-egg-laying exodus month following the courtship period, when both sexes forage heavily, the females in preparation for egg-laying, the males in preparation for the first weeks of incubation. When they return to lay, adults tend to come straight off the sea into burrows after dark without lingering offshore. In midwinter, the weather becomes less settled and is often unsuitable for small boats, so late autumn is the ideal time to visit Bermuda to see the petrels.

The Bermuda Audubon Society (email: info@audubon.bm) currently offers boat trips to look for Bermuda Petrels on Saturday afternoons in November, departing the dock at 2:45 p.m. and returning about 6:30 p.m. The trips take up to 14 people and operate if the winds are light to moderate.

It is also possible to charter a boat to observe the petrels. Flood and colleagues went to sea on 20 occasions in Bermuda in 2011, 2012, and 2013, always in November, when weather conditions permitted (Figure 20). In a small craft, they were able to venture offshore when winds were 25 knots or less. The petrels were found on both calm and windy days on these outings, often by using chum about 3–5 kilometers off the Castle Harbour mouth, setting the boat on a drift dependent on wind speed and direction. Individual birds frequently investigated the chum, but courting parties largely ignored it and so were best approached by boat when they remained in an area. Some birds stayed in the distance or were impossible to pursue by boat, but on all 20 occasions, all observers had good studies of the petrels and often heard the eerie, tremulous calls that give them their local name.

Figure 20. Setting off on a Cahow short-range pelagic trip in November 2013 are participants (left to right): Rob Tizard, Alain Guillemont, David Wingate, Andrew Cleave, Paul Sterry, Andrew Dobson, Stephen Harrold, Bob Flood, Alan Hannington, Mick Taylor. ***Photograph by Kirk Zufelt.***

Ireland (Figure 15). The other two birds spent all of their time west and north of Bermuda, as they did during the breeding season, thus never traveling more than 1440 kilometers from Bermuda. In the subsequent two seasons, seven data-loggers were deployed. By early 2012, six of these were found to contain usable data. Five birds spent part or all of the nonbreeding period near the Azores. Two of them spent several weeks off northwestern Europe, at times between southwestern Ireland and northwestern Spain, coming fairly close to land at both locations (about 200 kilometers). Another bird spent two years between Bermuda and the United States during both breeding and nonbreeding seasons. Data-loggers have not been deployed on fledglings, and so nothing is known about the at-sea range of younger birds, but the emerging picture of adults' range, covering most of the North Atlantic Ocean in the temperate zones (Figures 16, 17), will be valuable for researchers hoping to study the species' ecology at sea.

One of the newest innovations in Bermuda Petrel research is the development and installation of an infrared "burrow-cam" fitted into the nest lids of some of the artificial nest burrows on Nonsuch Island. This camera is designed to permit observation of activity inside the nest burrows without disturbing the birds and is "live-streamed" via internet (at <http://www.nonsuchisland.com>). This technology has enabled previously undescribed aspects of behavior to be observed during adult visits to the chicks and thus fulfills the recovery program's objectives of research and public outreach.

The conservation of Bermuda Petrel still faces challenges and new frontiers in the modern era, where climate change and the degradation of ocean ecosystems could soon begin to reverse the laudable advances of the recovery program during its first six decades. The conservation team built around this noble species, and its partners in government and business and the academic world, will continue to do everything possible to strengthen this bird's chances of survival and to advocate for intelligent, sustainable stewardship of island and oceanic faunas worldwide.

Acknowledgments

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The Changing Seasons: One-offs

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The Weather

Summer 2013 was a very warm one: for the Lower 48 United States, the average temperature was about 2° F above the twentieth-century mean, whereas July was about 1° above. It was especially hot in the Rockies and the Southwest, where most states had rankings in the top ten for temperature. Alaska baked: temperatures averaged 4° above the 1971-2000 average, with many recordings over 90° in the third week of June, shattering local records (Figure 1). June was Alaska's third warmest ever and July its fifth. July was top-ten warm in Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, and Utah as well. These conditions abetted 4000 western wildfires that burned over one million acres. The mid-Atlantic and Northeast were also above average (top-ten warm in New England states in July), while the Midwest and Plains were near average, but the Southeast was cooler than usual, with four states marking top-ten coolest July on record.

Precipitation levels varied starkly across the continent, as we expect in summer months. June in the East and Ohio Valley was especially rainy: 18 states had rain totals that ranked as top ten. Tropical Storm *Andrea*'s landfall in Florida 6 June brought locally heavy rain and tornadoes and a few notable bird reports. Rains in June in fact eradicated all drought conditions east of the Mississippi River that month (for the first time since May 2005), but drier conditions in July meant that some drought conditions returned in the Mississippi River valley in July. The West and southern Plains were plagued by continuing drought in June, especially in Arizona, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming; a third of the United States had severe to exceptional drought by early July. The East, by contrast, continued very wet in July; the Southeast's 10 states all had a top-ten-wettest July on record, with Florida recording its wettest July ever (almost 13 cm above average). Flooding was widespread. Rains associated with monsoon conditions in the Southwest brought precipitation levels well above average from Southern California to New Mexico, but the Pacific Northwest was dry, with Oregon recording its driest July ever. Drought continued over about a third of the Hawaiian Islands, despite heavy rains from the remnants of Tropical Storm *Flossie* 30 July—a storm that had been born as a tropical wave off western Africa 9 July.

Following the warmest summer ever recorded in Canada (in 2012), the nation's average temperature for the summer of 2013 was about 1° C above the norm (Figure 2), thus the eighth warmest since 1948. Canada's summer was wetter than usual overall, especially in central Saskatchewan and Manitoba, eastern Ontario, and the Maritime provinces, whereas large swaths of British Columbia, the prairie provinces, northern Québec, and Newfoundland were much drier than average. After the rapid retreat of sea ice in summer/fall 2012, this 2013 summer season saw a return to ice conditions closer to the norm. The ice cover over Canadian Arctic waters was far more extensive than in 2012 and recent years generally; over the High Arctic and along the northern route of the Northwest Passage, the ice melted only partially near the end of the summer season. By contrast, Alaska's warm season meant that sea ice conditions in the northern Bering Sea were given the relatively new category of "decayed ice," as regional editor Thede Tobish notes.

Big wandering birds

When it comes to weather in this century, North America is on the equivalent of Mr. Toad's Wild Ride, and in the swings from one extreme to another, birds have it even tougher than humans. This season's more moderate weather held a few problems for birds, if not as many as in recent summers. In New Brunswick, a cool June was thought to be associated with poor nesting success in Razorbills, Atlantic Puffins, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and Common and Arctic Terns, and along the Mississippi and Ohio drainages, Least Terns suffered complete nest failures due to flooding. These sorts of setbacks could be more frequent in nesting seasons to come, but this summer, the reports of poor nesting success were relatively localized and not out of step with reports from, say, the 1980s. Overall population trends for many colonial nesting birds, however, are mostly downward over the past several decades.

North American Birds has a fairly good history of tracking seasonal trends in counts of birds, particularly uncommon species, but the journal is not a resource for understanding long-term trends, which require large, accurate databases of standardized counts over decades. However, this little publication is very good at alerting birders to trends that are developing or possibly developing, so that we can seek out expanding or declining species locally. For decades, this journal was the primary vehicle for communicating such *news*. Now, we turn to electronic media for the news, as we should—we can find out almost instantly what's happening, almost anywhere in the developed world. Still missing online, though, is a regular seasonal summary of what's happening, and that niche is still filled by the *North American Birds* regional reports.

In summer 2013, there was no clear breakout species that made headlines for the first time, but many of the "big" wandering birds (that is, waterfowl, raptors, and wading birds) that have been pushing northward continued to do so in 2013. These species have filled many pages in this column in the present century, as the climate continues to warm, and their expansions and northward wanderings continue to capture our attention, especially at the northern fringes of occurrence, where they are most notable.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks have enjoyed a prominent place in our conversation here over the past 15 years or so, and this season brings reports of nesting from the Baja California Peninsula to South Carolina. The species is now "routine" in southern Louisiana and consolidating and expanding gains in northern Florida, southern Alabama, western Tennessee, and eastern Arkansas. Farther up the Mississippi River, just one was reported, at Athens, Illinois 4-7 June. Northern Texas and Oklahoma are seeing wanderers more frequently, and dispersing birds in continue to increase to the north of the Southern Plains, with one in Clay County, Nebraska 21-22 June. Wisconsin also had a single at Horicon 1 June. In the East, the pickings were slimmer, with two in Delaware 15-18 July and one in northern Virginia 16-17 July. Irruptions of this species have not yet been studied, but it would be a topic of great interest; some whistling-duck species appear to expand their ranges during wet cycles (some of which can persist for decades) in core range, but this species has seen much drought over the northern portion of its range in the past 15 years. So are these dispersing birds seeking wetter conditions? Their ability to nest (and forage and roost) in urban settings almost certainly helps them to expand, as cities often provide verdant, well-watered parks, in contrast to parched rural areas that may offer little habitat. In South Carolina, biologists with the Department of Natural Resources have begun banding young whistling-ducks, in an effort to understand patterns of dispersal, and Florida and Georgia teams will also begin banding soon. These studies will hopefully provide good insight into where the birds are going and under what conditions. Because they're colorful, conspicuous, vocal, and often tame, it should be possible for biologists to gather good data from birders and the general public on banded birds. (Just remember that non-USFWS bands in this case don't indicate former captives!)

Neotropic Cormorants are pushing the envelope right across the continent as well, from Southern California to Florida and the Bahamas, with very notable numbers recorded this season in the interior West, the Plains, and Midwest/Great Lakes. The population in southern Louisiana appears to be on the increase, and several were well north in the Mississippi River drainage, with 7 making a "banner season" in Illinois and one a rarity in Fulton County, Kentucky 25 June. Counts of up to 20 at the Salton Sea in California (and up to 6 per site at various southern California lakes) comport with the widespread reports from Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico this season, perhaps suggestive of influx from farther south. In the Plains, 3 were noted in northern Texas, Oklahoma now reports the species regularly if locally, 2 singles were in Kansas, one in Nebraska, and 2 in South Dakota 12 and 20 July. Remarkably, South Dakota now has 17 records of the species, all recent. Even more remarkably, Canada had two reports: one at Dauphin Lake, Manitoba 14 June and one in spring at Thickson Bay, Ontario 5 May! Like the expansion of Glossy Ibis, that of Neotropic Cormorant has a temporally uneven but geographically broad quality; only the Northeast awaits records, and those will most likely occur in the next decade, provided the species gains a greater foothold in the Southeast. Neotropic Cormorants, like the whistling-ducks, offer an opportunity for study; though they do not have the clown-like conspicuousness of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, they do tend to be found conveniently at inland reservoirs, aquaculture farms, artificial lakes and ponds (including in urban settings), and along rivers, where they often can be studied well. There is still question as to hybridization with Double-crested Cormorant—not an issue with the whistling-ducks—but a fascinating aspect of this species' expansion, as with Glossy and White-faced Ibises, and reason for very careful review of individuals out of typical range.

Roseate Spoonbill, a bird I remember predicting to wander well northward back in 1993 (pulled the trigger too soon on that one), is finally starting to show a modest pattern of dispersal, though it pales next to those of the whistling-duck, ibises, and cormorant. Numbers of dispersing spoonbills are increasing each summer in Alabama, Mississippi, and northern Florida, and this season saw a small bounty in each state, while northern Texas had 7 birds 4-27 July, Oklahoma has a few at Red Slough (a regular location now), Tennessee had singles 3 and 22 July, Arizona had 2 (surely from Mexican colonies?) 15 and 30 July, and one made it to the Berry Islands of the Bahamas 9 July. None were recorded north of the Caroli-

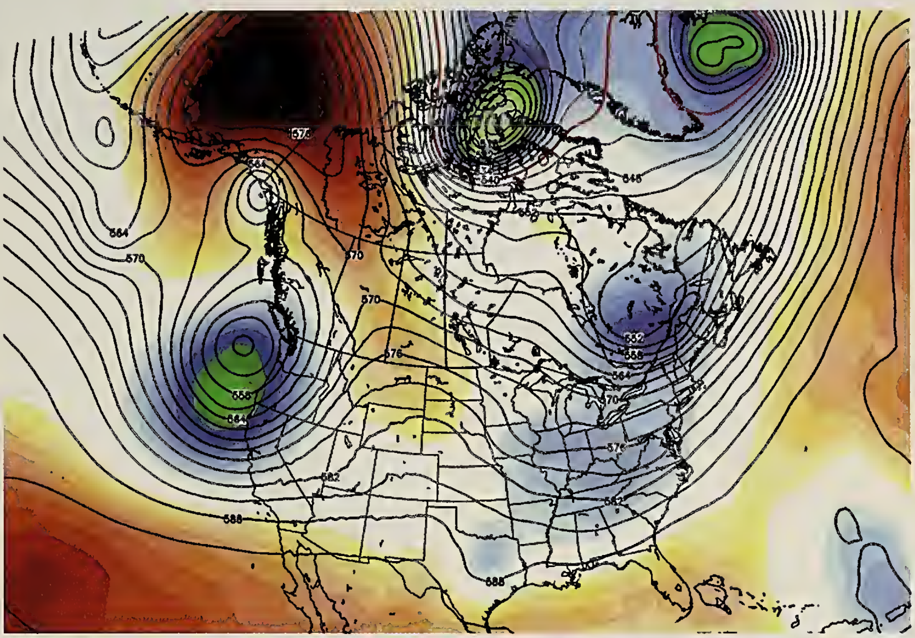

Figure 1. Temperature anomalies for 18 June 2013. Note the cool conditions in the East in contrast to extreme heat in Alaska, where many locations recorded temperatures above 90° F in the third week of the month. *Graphic courtesy of the National Climatic Data Center.*

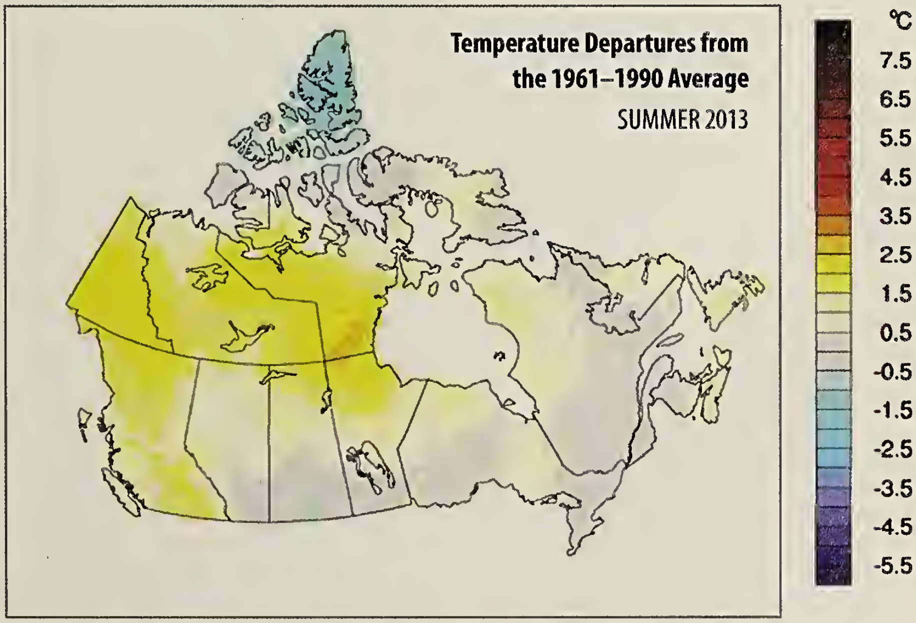

Figure 2. Temperature anomalies for Canada, summer 2013. Although not as warm as Alaska, the northern territories were mostly above average in temperature, while the Arctic islands were cooler than the 1961-1990 average. Almost half of the nation saw near-average temperatures. *Graphic courtesy of Environment Canada/Environnement Canada.*

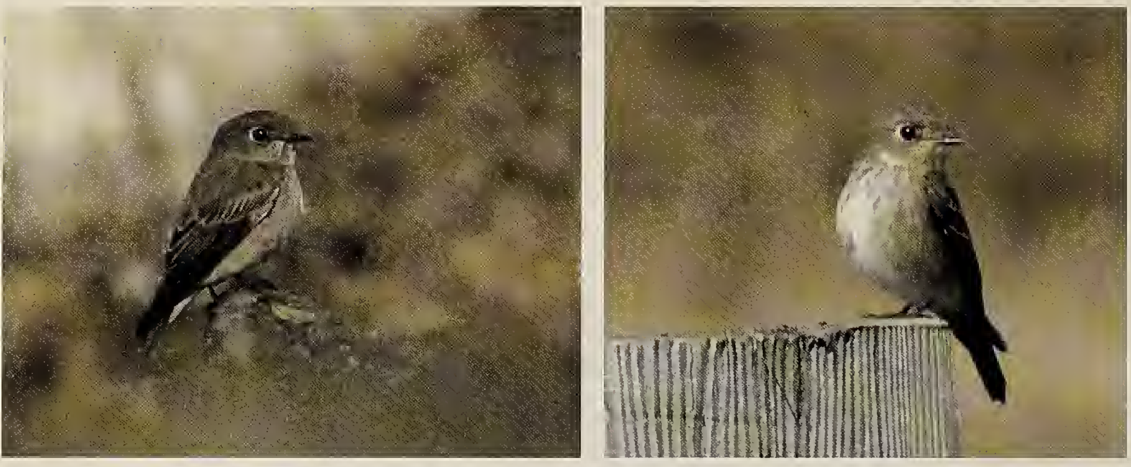

Figure 3. Siberian rarities are expected in Alaska in early June, part of the spring overshoot/displacement pattern that occurs annually to varying extents. Most such records come from Aleutian and Bering Sea islands, but Barrow has produced its fair share of June rarities, such as this beautifully documented Dark-sided Flycatcher, which hung around a communications building on 17 June 2013—where the temperature hit 75° F in this northernmost city of North America. *Photographs by Luke DeDicco.*

nas or Tennessee in the East/Midwest, but with breeding slowly advancing northward, into Georgia, one would expect another wave of northward summer dispersal in the near future.

Pelicans have been doing fascinating things for 30 years now, arguably even longer. American White Pelicans are in the news in virtually every single region covered by this journal. Like Black Scoters along the Atlantic coasts, white pelicans are summering far south of breeding range in increasing numbers in the past several summers. Counts of hundreds in Tennessee and Texas in summer are mind-boggling, but how about 1000 at Presa La Vega in Jalisco 15 June or 500 at El Guayabo wetlands, Nicaragua 9 June? Hundreds were in Florida through the season, and they were said to be "abundant" in Alabama and Mississippi as well. The "now annual show" of a few birds reached the mid-Atlantic states through New York, and Nova Scotia recorded its thirteenth ever 9-16 June, a bird that apparently moved to New Brunswick thereafter. These birds do not appear to be ailing, and one assumes that most are younger birds that will breed in subsequent seasons; perhaps these numbers are signs of increasing populations rather than a species in distress.

Brown Pelican populations also seem to be providing an increasing number of non-breeding and post-breeding wanderers into the interior. These conspicuous birds can give record-keepers headaches where they appear on the Great Lakes, visiting locations in many different states and provinces in a short amount of time, such as the bird (or birds?) that stopped off at Cleveland, at Niagara Falls, and Leamington, Ontario this season. Small numbers were seen in Tennessee, Kansas, New Mexico, Québec, and one reached Minnesota in spring through 1 June, only the state's fourth. For whatever reason, this saltwater species is becoming "more regular inland" in Florida in recent years, and two other records from interior sites caught our eye: 35 were in the Santa Rosa Mountains of California 25 June (elevation 2400 m), and one was in a field on the slopes of the Irazú Volcano at Prusia, Costa Rica 2 July (elevation 2600 m). Vagrant Brown Pelicans could be telling us many different things. Florida birds could well have discovered a few fish-rich honey-holes that are now irregularly exploited after the nesting season, whereas Pacific birds found inland at high altitudes could be attempting to escape fish-poor conditions at the seacoast. The slight decline in interior records from the Mississippi River states in recent seasons is probably the result of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico; the recent high count of 105 from Delaware 29 July could be related to recent breeding successes in the northern section of Chesapeake Bay.

Another (small) bird to watch in the East? Maybe Tropical Kingbird. A pair continues to nest on Galveston Island in Texas, and Florida recorded its first nesting of the species this summer (helpfully, it appears to have hybridized with a Gray Kingbird), while Philadelphia birders enjoyed a well-documented Tropical Kingbird 20 June. How many more have nested in Florida undetected, and what sorts of dispersal patterns might such nesters have? Hybrid kingbirds (including Scissor-tailed Flycatcher) have been reported many times in these pages, but a Gray x Tropical hybrid would be a first; heaven help us in identifying that combination. Summer weather might lack subtlety, but the season's birds are plenty fascinating.

Singular rarities

The summer season, at least for this journal, is brief: two months when most of the temperate and boreal species are nesting and birders enjoy migrating shorebirds while anticipating more diverse waves of migrants on the fronts of autumn, a period that for us spans 1 August through 30 November. Because of its brevity, and because fewer species are migrating in June and July, this season typically passes without many surprises. We expect the occasional report of a rare Palearctic shorebird or vagrant seabird, but almost all of these records fit patterns of occurrence, if weak patterns in some cases. Most North American birders dream of seeing Siberian rarities in late May and early June in Alaska—check-boxes for species like Dark-sided Flycatcher (Figure 3) are blank on most of our checklists—but even very rare vagrants such as this conform to patterns we have come to understand better in recent times. Howell, Lewington, and Russell provide an indispensible analysis of such patterns in *Rare Birds of North America* (Princeton University Press).

What of the birds without patterns, the one-off wonders that may cause equal parts thrill and trepidation? We have considered such records many times in these pages, and we routinely note the tension between assumptions about human-assisted transport and "natural" vagrancy. Part of this tension plays out in the binary sphere of bird listing, wherein a bird is countable or uncountable, according to a set of standards and rules that would make a golfer blush, with status ultimately determined by committee vote (or decision not to vote). But part of the tension arises from the very human dialectic between curiosity (we imagine how and why a bird could stray far out of normal range) and skepticism (we posit that if we cannot reasonably rule out human agency in the appearance of a bird, we must consider it a possibility, in some cases a probability, especially with species often held in captivity). And we as birders cannot do without curiosity any more than we can do without skepticism. Even in the age of drones and satellite tracking, we remain in a murky realm with many rarities, trying to lay out the most plausible conjecture for a stochastic apparition.

Singular appearances of a species out of range

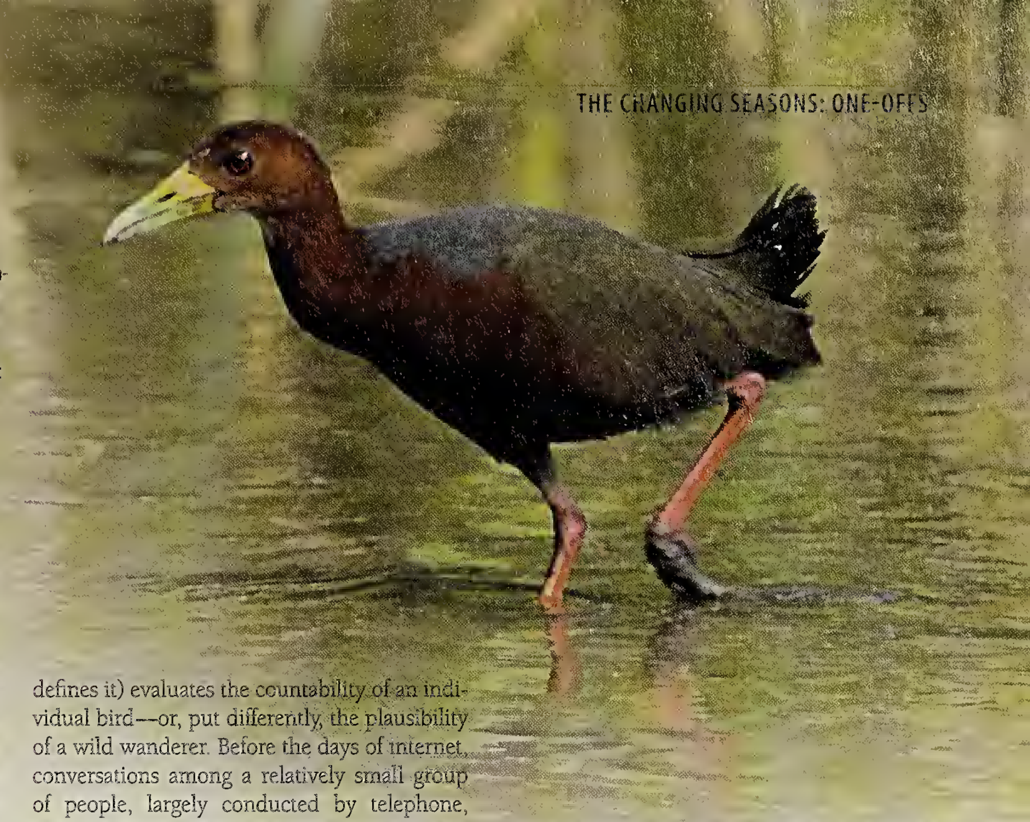

Figure 4. Providing a first record for New Mexico and the United States, this Rufous-necked Wood-Rail entertained hundreds of birders during its stay at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Socorro County 7-18 (here 8) July 2013. How many more wood-rails, or Neotropical rails generally, have gone unnoticed in the United States? Or was this bird the first northerly pioneer of its species, to be followed by others? *Photograph by Gary K. Froehlich.*

usually do not stay singular for long. Some first records—of Willow Warbler, Stygian Owl, Northern Boobook, Intermediate Egret, Amazon Kingfisher, Oriental Pratincole, Narcissus Flycatcher, Rufous-tailed Robin, and Solitary Snipe—were followed rather quickly by seconds. Seconds for others, such as Wood Warbler, Citrine Wagtail, and Collared Plover, have taken decades. A few North American firsts, such as Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Blyth's Reed Warbler, and Eurasian Hoopoe, will probably have to wait a bit longer for their seconds. But when will we see another Rufous-necked Wood-Rail in the United States? That must have been the question many birders asked themselves before jumping into a plane or car to visit Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico this summer (Figure 4).

Records of vagrant rails from the Neotropics are few and far between in the United States: Azure Gallinule in New York; Spotted Rail in Pennsylvania and Texas; and Paint-billed Crake in Virginia and Texas. One suspects there might be more records of vagrant rails, were they less retiring. And never has there been a vagrant rail in the United States that put on a show for weeks, delighting virtually everyone who made the trek. Rufous-necked Wood-Rail was the 8000th Life Bird for then top world lister Phoebe Snetsinger, who had looked for the species on many occasions before savoring her first with Steve Howell at San Blas, Mexico in 1995. Suffice it to say the species has caché. Refreshingly, the finder of the wood-rail, Matt Daw, only reluctantly accepted credit for the discovery, calling it an "accident" (the bird walked into view as he was filming a Least Bittern, for American birding's most notorious photo-bomb to date).

In the past, we would have called such a bird an "accidental," the word used for very rare birds found well out of range for much of the second half of the twentieth century. The word resonates well with our initial shocked reactions to news of a Rufous-necked Wood-Rail (or a Sungrebe or a Thick-billed Parrot, for that matter) in New Mexico: with little or no context, the record at first seems to strain plausibility. More recent terms like vagrant, wanderer, or pioneer do little to place such records into more comfortable scientific context. The n=1 bird records can provide a litmus test for how the birding community (however one defines it) evaluates the countability of an individual bird—or, put differently, the plausibility of a wild wanderer. Before the days of internet, conversations among a relatively small group of people, largely conducted by telephone, weighed the available information prior to The Chase. But in this century, we now see thousands of public conversations in chat rooms, Facebook, list groups. Cheek by jowl with unbridled desire for a countable wild bird we read foreboding aspersions cast on wild provenance. Careful reasoning based on hard data makes occasional appearances amid the chatter.

These three New Mexico birds provide interesting sociological barometers of how birders respond to different rarities. The Thick-billed Parrot at Armendaris Ranch near Engle in May 2003 saw a handful of admirers: most big listers sat on the fence, inhibiting pursuit by others who might have perceived the possibility of a wild wanderer to be greater. The Sungrebe at Bosque del Apache in November 2008 had a few more visitors, but the incredulity factor was still moderately high (one saw this in online exchanges, more widespread than in 2003), and the bird was not found after the first week. But the glamorous Rufous-necked Wood-Rail in 2013 launched a thousand ships; positive chatter exploded early on, key chasers gave chase quickly, and the rest is history. Whatever decisions are tendered by various committees, the birding community was dearly committed to this bird as a wild wanderer right off the bat. The crowd voted yes, bought plane tickets, rented cars, and almost everyone who made the journey found the bird and had a fine time. In the pilgrimage, something unique to our tribe, old friends were reunited by the grand alchemy that only a very rare bird produces for us, and new social connections were made as well. The bird was showcased in mainstream media as very few rarities have been in U. S. history.

But what if we didn't go through a vetting process for such birds? What if we appreciated, visited, studied such a bird *no matter what*, foregoing the crowd-sourced groupthink? Would our experience of this bird—or a Hooded Crane in Tennessee, or a Common Chaffinch in Massachusetts, or a Yellow Grosbeak in New Mexico—be diminished if we were to find out later that the birds had been held captive for a time? Would we then revise our interpretation of what had been a joyous experience, now coloring it dour, tainted by a dirty bird?

Recently, Ted Floyd (2011) wrote an essay here—"Antidisestablishmentarianism"—that was avidly read and sometimes misread. Ted was just back from the first annual World Bird Watchers Conference in the state of Gujarat, India, and he marveled at the way local birders there kept track of all sorts of birds, including "exotics" and introduced birds, not segregating the countable from the untouchable. His essay was strongly informed by this experience of an active birding community that observed all birdlife, not creating distinctions based on game logic or binaries such as native/non-native. But at least some readers of the essay interpreted Ted's challenge to recognize and reflect upon our North American cultural specificity as a call to release more exotic species into our landscape so that we might have more and more "countable" birds. That reading misses Ted's point: there is a world of difference between acknowledging living, free-flying birds as *real* and worthy of attention and wanting to multiply the number of species in the environment. Birding, as he observed it in western India, was a pastime not subject to the logic of listing in the way we inherit it, and experience it, in the many facets of North American birding.

But even if we suspend for a moment the binary of countable/uncountable, and the emotional consequences of the game of listing, we are still left to ponder the rarest of the accidentals, the one-offs, and the question of provenance. In an earlier essay (2010), I wondered how terrible it would be if we took a stance of neutrality with regard to various anomalous or perhaps problematic records. Our debates, conducted despite a dearth of data, can resemble grandstanding, with the loudest voices carrying the day, though their conclusions often turn out to be incorrect. Crow is not consumed, at least not publically. At the extreme, one is reminded of the disquisitions of politicians and sports commentators—bluster.

We certainly profit, when a one-off bird appears, from understanding more about woodrails in the wild and in captivity, but to attach emotion (or scores) to assumptions about wildness, actively or retroactively, often seems intellectually disingenuous to me. Our assumptions may not be completely baseless, but they are assumptions, speculative in nature, whether committee-endorsed or not, and should not decide our interpretation of what was, at the time, a pleasurable day in the field. Putting a bird on an "Escrow List," as some do, awaiting the pronouncement as to countability from on high, consigns an evaluation of the field encounter to some future time, when value will be assigned.

What can be said about the Common Mynas found in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in July (Figure 5)? We could spin many tales about how these birds got there, but at this point, we don't know. Cruise ship riders from Florida? Dispersants from Florida? Local avicultural escapees? Or escapees from farther away? Their plumage didn't suggest recent captivity, but that doesn't mean much. And a tropical-storm-transportation theory would not fit. Many birders shrug when hearing news of this ilk; if the bird is non-native, or non-countable, it may as well be a non-bird. Few people go to look at such birds: they are avian *harijan*. But what if the birds did come from Florida, assisted by ship or otherwise? And what if such birds were deemed countable locally (as they would be in some parts of the world)? The danger in the shrug, the gesture of apathy, is that we tend not to keep track of such records well; our community's emotion-based attitude toward certain waterfowl means that it's almost impossible to reconstruct the history of potential vagrancy in species like Common Shelduck or Barnacle Goose (Brinkley 2010). So long as the crux is countability, we do a disservice to expanding species, whether native or not, in disregarding some. And our experiences in the here-and-now likewise become strangely dissociated from our valuation of them when we defer or postpone, awaiting committee or community sanction.

Trumpeter Swan (Figure 6) is another example of an expanding, partly introduced species whose numbers are increasing in the Midwest, Prairie Provinces, and East but whose place on avifaunal lists, and in the emotional landscape of the birding community, is still vexed. We have been encouraged to perceive Trumpeters as avifaunal bullies (much as we have perceived non-native Mute Swans in the East), as uncountable exotics, and as magnificent native mega-fauna at last returned to rightful eastern range after eradication in the early nineteenth century. What would they do in Gujarat? Probably what many of us do—study them carefully to make sure they're Trumpeters rather than Tundra Swans. There are certainly legitimate scientific questions about whether our diminished, fragmented, and fragile ecosystems in the East have the capacity to host increasing numbers of Trumpeter Swans, and different evaluations can certainly lead to debate, which can legitimately ignite passions on the subject. How important by comparison are passions about countability? We can make rules within rules within rules about the countability of certain species or individuals; but our lives are not made richer by this complexity, and they bring us no closer to understanding or appreciating these birds *as they really exist*.

Thinking more widely about less-rare species: how many African and European birds that appear in Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles were likely to have been completely unassisted during their transit of the Atlantic? Herons, egrets, raptors ... and a bee-eater? For that matter, how many migratory birds that appear on Bermuda have rested for a time on a ship? Recent studies of cruise ships in autumn off Florida and the Bahamas show that migrants alight on them in the hundreds under some conditions—and stay with the ship until land is near. We have rarely considered provenance to be an issue in our observations of common species, but when birders taking cruises during fall migration see fallouts on the ships, and some of these birds appear in areas adjacent the cruise ship terminals as the ships come into port, we get a glimpse into how widespread this phenomenon is. In recent years, some committees have acknowledged that ships are an integral part of the environment and no longer attempt to bar vagrants from lists based on the possibility of ship travel (e.g., Red-footed Falcon), though this standard is not uniform among the states and provinces (e.g., European Turtle-Dove). And could it be that some birds are simply too popular (the falcon is a

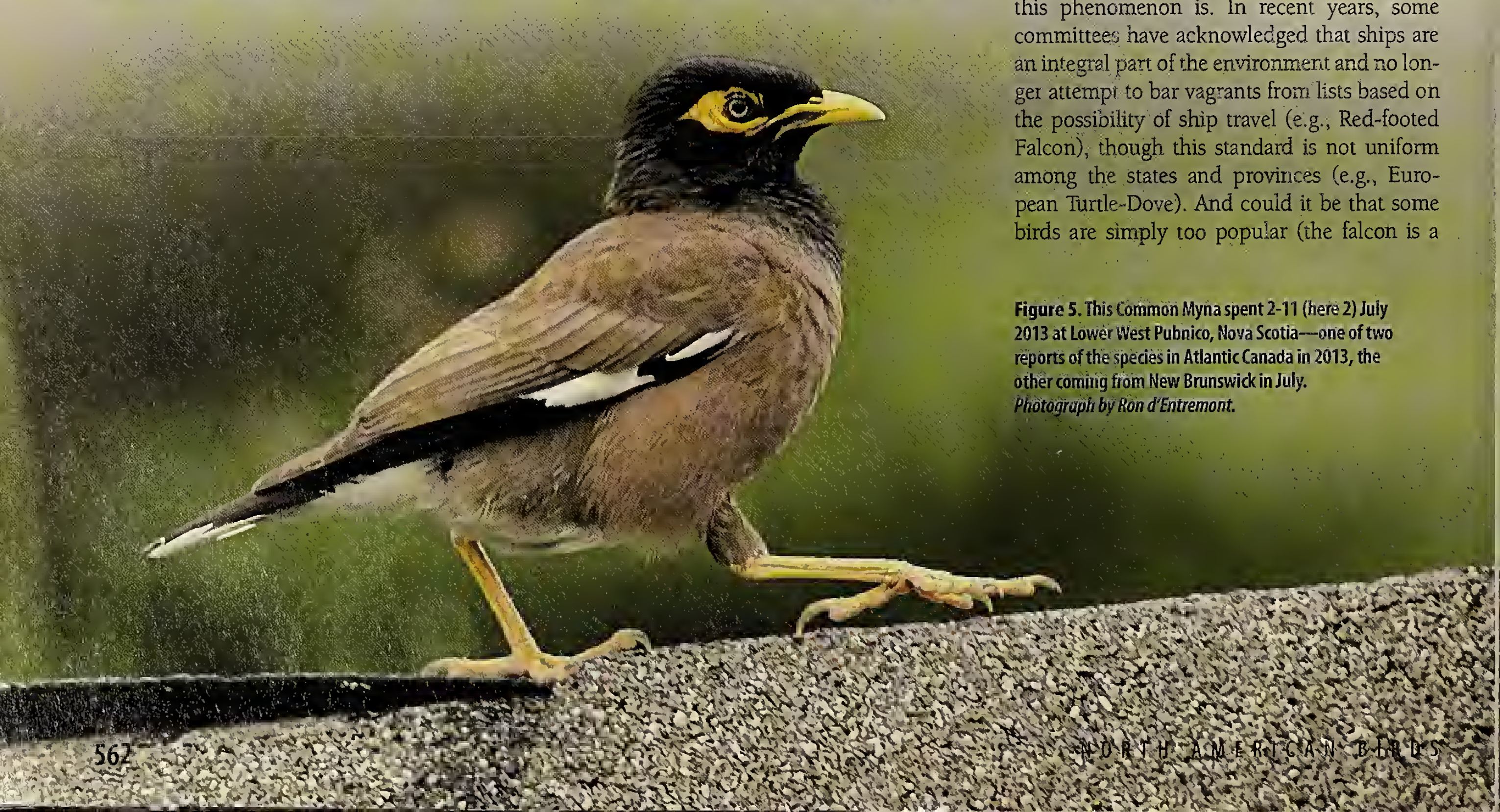

Figure 5. This Common Myna spent 2-11 (here 2) July 2013 at Lower West Pubnico, Nova Scotia—one of two reports of the species in Atlantic Canada in 2013, the other coming from New Brunswick in July. *Photograph by Ron d'Entremont.*

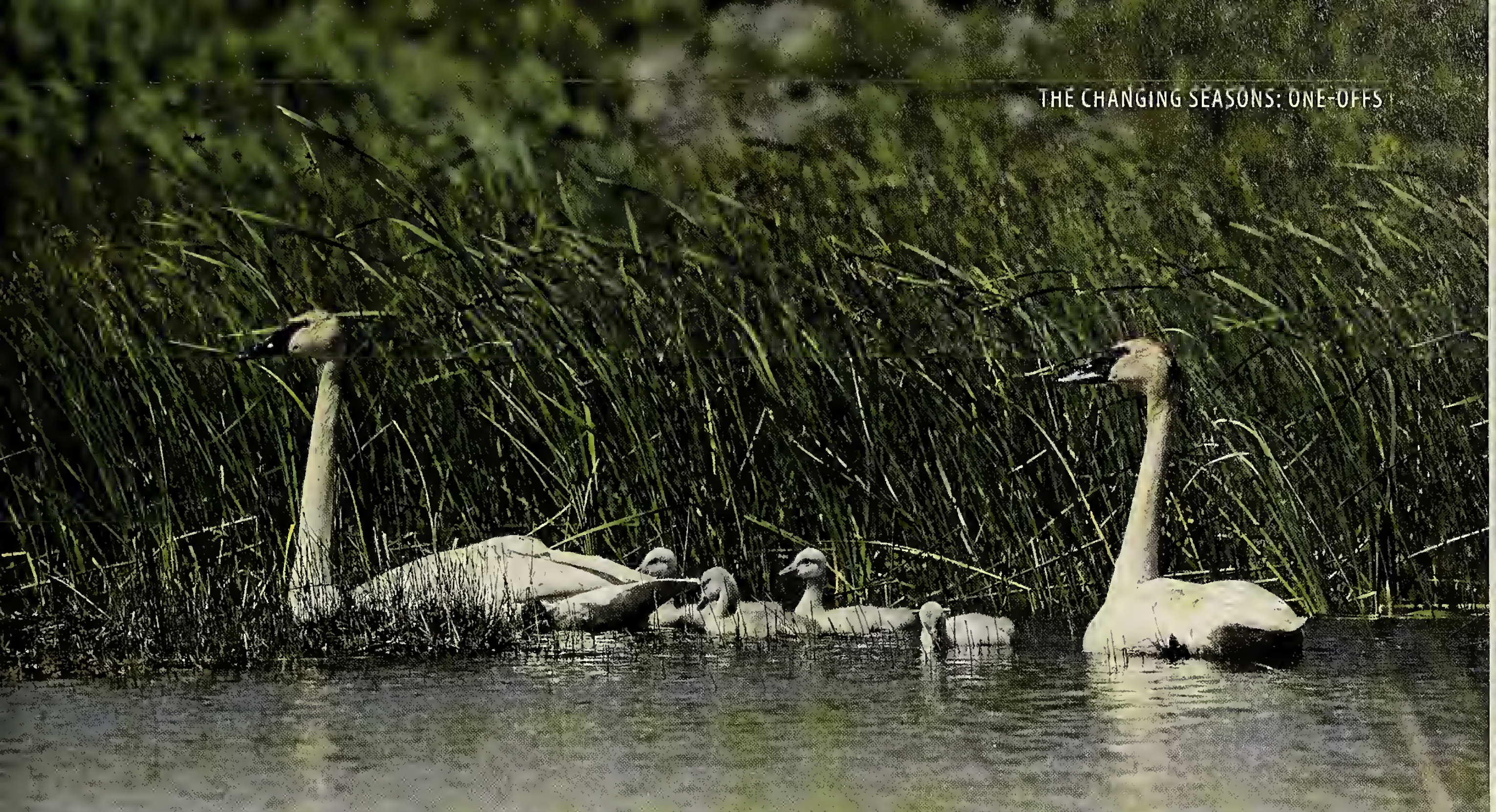

Figure 6. This pair of Trumpeter Swans with four cygnets at Val-d'Or 6 July 2013 provided the second confirmed record of breeding for Québec. *Photograph by Raymond Ladurantaye.*

prime example) to put into a penalty box? To what degree are committee endorsements influenced by the tacit endorsement of avid chasers?

Singular birds, like the heraldic Red-footed Falcon or Rufous-necked Wood-Rail, might seem outliers to us, one-offs whose pathways will ever be shrouded in mystery—and that serve as living tokens of the limits of our knowledge. But people who have worked on ships for long periods know that bird hitchhikers and stowaways are common and often are given food and water, some becoming quite chummy with humans on board. We must acknowledge, if we are to be strictly logical, that the "provenance" and pathways of even common birds are usually, in fact, unknown to us.

What about Virginia's White-crowned Pigeon, which turned up on Assateague Island in the wake of the passage of Tropical Storm *Andrea* 8 June? North Carolina has hosted a few Caribbean Basin wanderers (Antillean Nighthawks, Black-whiskered Vireos, Green-breasted Mango), but these sorts are scarce or unknown farther north, and their arrivals have not coincided with tropical storm activity. And White-crowned Pigeons don't seem to have much or any track record of storm displacement in Florida. So this record is a real anomaly in the United States. As with the wood-rail, human "assistance" or ship travel seems unlikely, though not inconceivable. When the pigeon's presence was first announced, there was chatter that it had been released there, followed by chatter that the image was not taken at the location claimed. In this volatile and strange world, would we be very surprised if it turned out that some misguided individual had released a rare bird at a wildlife refuge or other locality in need of tourist revenue or conservation attention? Or had released it just for the sake of mischief?

Instead of thinking of anomalies such as these as denizens of a conceptual or emotional gray zone, would it not be better to think of them provisionally as the first of their kind in a pattern yet to emerge—and seek them out in similar settings and circumstances elsewhere? In the past 30 or so years, how many pelagic species have gone from "mega" to "meh" once people learned how and where to look for them? Two dozen maybe? With singular records, our skepticism is surely warranted, in light of all those photographs (see the journal *Sea Swallow*) of birds resting on ships and of strange birds held in captivity. But we should allow our curiosity some rein, so that we use one-offs as burrs under the saddle, to expand our awareness of possibilities and to refine our fieldcraft. Mynas in Nova Scotia are more surprising than caracaras, but caracaras there were nearly as shocking, even controversial, just three years ago. How quickly perspectives shift as time marches on. Maybe we'll see a White-crowned Pigeon on the Jersey shore, a Rufous-necked Wood-Rail at a Colorado marsh, and a Common Myna in Newfoundland in years to come. Who knows what species will turn northward on the next wave?

We live in an avian landscape that seems increasingly heterogeneous and unpredictable, with tropical species in boreal locations, Atlantic birds in the Pacific, and dwindling populations of so many species. And our experience of our pastime has transformed radically with the introduction of electronic communication. As we continue to adapt to the rapid changes in birds and birding, it is my hope that our evolution will be away from the simulacrum of the virtual, which is too often marked by insecurity, conflict, and disconnection, and toward a more immediate and tranquil pastime.

Ted Floyd wrote: "Pretend for a moment that we—birders and field ornithologists, ecologists and environmental scientists—could put aside our conviction that populations, communities, and ecosystems are either natural or unnatural. [...] Visualize the change now at a grander level. Imagine what it would do to the collective psyche, to the very heart and soul of our society. Imagine if we could see ourselves—all of us, Sarus Cranes and 'pseudogrines,' rare vagrants and escaped birds; and everything around us, wilderness areas and vacant lots, wildlife refuges and soybean fields—as all in this thing together. Wouldn't that be grand? Wouldn't that be beautiful?"

Without the Manichaean manacles of natural/unnatural, countable/uncountable, without the *pollice verso*, the ancient Roman thumbs up or thumbs down, would we continue to list and to chase? Our lives with birds are very heavily mediated at this moment, both by our electronic devices and by the networks of definitions and rules we encounter when we elect to join the "birding community." If we were to step back from the mediation and try to inhabit the real, to live in the present moment, just as when we first were drawn to living birds, what would our birding look like?

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A Tundra Bean-Goose (*Anser serrirostris*) in Nova Scotia

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Abstract

This paper documents the occurrence of a Tundra Bean-Goose (*Anser serrirostris*) of unknown subspecies at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia 6 November through 23 December 2013, which furnishes the third Canadian record of the species (the others from Québec in 1982 and Yukon in 2000) and fourth for North America away from Alaska (California having the only other record, from October 2013).

Field encounter

On 6 November 2013, Roland Pothier was golfing with others on the Yarmouth Golf and Country Club on the southern outskirts of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, where he noted an unfamiliar goose. After consulting several bird books, he identified it as a bean-goose, either Tundra Bean-Goose (*Anser serrirostris*) or Taiga Bean-Goose (*A. fabalis*), formerly combined as a single species (Bean Goose, *A. fabalis*). On 7 November, he contacted Eric Ruff in Yarmouth, who promptly informed others, including Ron d'Entremont, who found the bird there 8 November (Figure 1). Photographs indicated that the goose was not banded, had intact halluces (hind toes; often removed from captive waterfowl to indicate former captivity; Figure 2), and showed no signs of odd plumage wear or feather damage sometimes seen in former captives. Other observers arrived to see the bird 8 November, and it was identified then as a Tundra Bean-Goose (*A. serrirostris*) rather than the very similar Taiga Bean-Goose (*A. fabalis*), which has a longer neck and longer bill and often appears flatter crowned (Oates 1997, Brown 2010). These taxa have only recently been treated as separate species in North America (Banks et al. 2007) and have been split by Europeans since the mid-1990s (Sangster and Oreel 1996). The Yarmouth bird was last seen at the golf course by Ron d'Entremont and Sharon Marlor on 23 December 2013. On 31 December, word came from an employee at the Yarmouth airport that a Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) had been seen eating a goose there "around mid-December." The remains of the goose were salvaged and turned out to be of a bean-goose, certainly the golf course goose.

Identification

The two species of bean-goose differ in vocalizations, morphometrics, and genetics, but in the field, single bean-geese can be very difficult to identify to species: plumage and proportions vary among the named subspecies of both Tundra and Taiga, and assessments of both aspects tend to be based on subjective impressions. Moreover, some nesting populations of bean-geese have not been assigned to any subspecies and may appear intermediate between the two species (Brown 2010). Among all criteria used to identify bean-geese to species, relative dimensions of the bill appear to be the most useful, and these can be assessed using close-up photographs of individual bean-geese, provided the images show the bill in near-perfect profile.

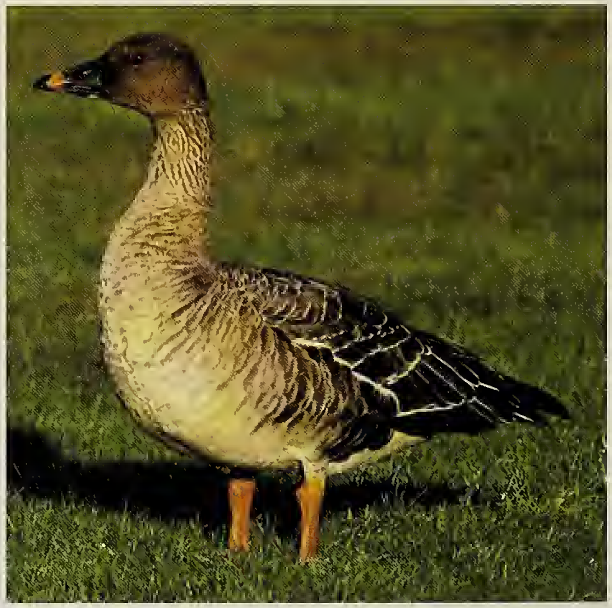


Figure 1. The short neck, relatively stout bill, and rounded forehead distinguish Tundra Bean-Goose (here 8 November 2013) from Taiga Bean-Goose, which often appears to have a longer, shallower "grin patch," slightly concave culmen, and more orange on the bill. The presence of paler juvenile feathers (in back, coverts, and scapulars) among fresh, darker feathers, along with the indistinctly barred flanks and the mixture of blunt-tipped and pointed neck feathers, indicate a bird in its first autumn. *Photograph by Ron d'Entremont.*

Bill measurements of bean-geese are provided by Delacour (1951), Dement'ev and Gladkov (1967), Cramp and Simmons (1977), Kurechi et al. (1983), and Ruokonen et al. (2008). In Tundra Bean-Goose, there are two subspecies: nominate *serrirostris*, nesting in northeastern Siberia and wintering in China, Japan, and the Korean Peninsula; and *rossicus*, nesting in western Siberia from the Taimyr Peninsula west to the Kanin Peninsula and wintering mostly in central and eastern Europe. The nominate averages larger and longer-billed than *rossicus*. However, the dimensions of bill—as represented by ratios of measurements from Ruokonen et al. (2008)—do not appear to differ significantly between the two subspecies. The discriminant analysis of Ruokonen et al. (2008) likewise indicates overlap between the two subspecies in this regard.

Nevertheless, the question of where the Yarmouth goose's bill might fit among available morphometric data sets expressed as ratios was intriguing. Photographs of the

Yarmouth bean-goose in profile (Figures 3a, b) were used to investigate ratios between bill height/bill length, nail length/bill length, and grin patch/bill length for comparison with measurements taken by caliper (Ruokonen et al. 2008) (Figure 3a). As seen in Table 1, the results for the Yarmouth goose are inconclusive as to subspecies identification. Kurechi et al. (1983) provide another set of data of potential value in identification to subspecies. In the case of the ratio between the the bill depth at the nostril and culmen length, the Yarmouth goose's bill is within one standard deviation of dimensions for *serrirostris* bills derived from Kurechi et al. (1983) (Table 2). The ratio between depth of its lower mandible and culmen length, however, is well below values derived from Kurechi et al. and possibly significantly so (uncorrected P<0.05). Cramp and Simmons (1977) include measurements of "maximum visible depth of lower bill near base" and "culmen length," which can be rendered as ratios (with standard deviation) of: 0.137 (0.018) for *rossicus* (both sexes), 0.158 (0.018) for male *serrirostris*, and 0.147 (0.026) for female *serrirostris*. The estimated ratio of 0.144 for the Yarmouth goose would fall between these averages but nearest female *serrirostris*. However, the Cramp and Simmons (1977) measurements are not described precisely enough for comparative purposes.

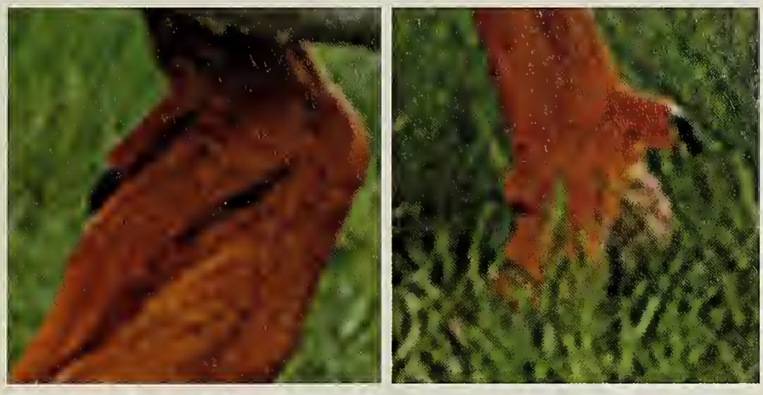
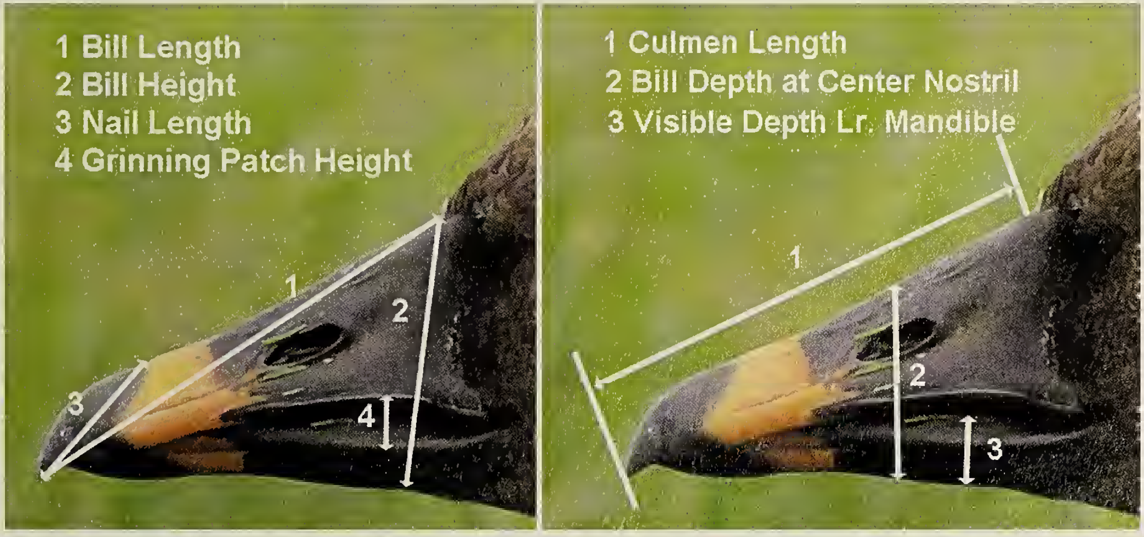


Figure 2. Both left and right halluces of the Yarmouth goose were noted to be intact; these toes are often amputated in captive waterfowl, particularly the right hallux. *Photographs by Bill Curry.*



Figures 3a,b. Figure 3a (left): four measurements used by Ruokonen et al. (2008, their Table 4) to compare the two subspecies of Tundra Bean-Goose. Figure 3b (right): three measurements used by Kurechi et al. (1983, as shown in their Figure 3) to distinguish between *A. serrirostris serrirostris* and *A. fabalis middendorffii*. *Photograph by Ron d'Entremont.*

Discussion

Both species of bean-goose have been recorded in Alaska, mostly records of single birds or small groups in spring, but not all records have been assigned to species since the recognition of two species (T. Tobish, pers. comm.). There are very few records of bean-geese in North America away from Alaska. Taiga Bean-Geese, all apparently of the subspecies *middendorffii*, have been reported from Washington, Iowa, and Nebraska, plus one at Cap Tourmente, Québec 24-26 October 1986 (David and Gosselin 1987, Pranty et al. 2008, Nelson et al. 2013). Another bean-goose at Cap Tourmente, first noted 14 October 1982 and shot by a hunter a week later, was identified from measurements as the western subspecies of Tundra Bean-Goose, *rossicus* (David and Gosselin 1988). A bean-goose not identified to species was noted 16 October 2013 by Claude Deschênes at the Montmagny Ferry Wharf, a site about 20 kilometers from the Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area and 485 kilometers northwest of Yarmouth; this report is still under review. A Tundra Bean-Goose in October 1999 at Whitehorse, Yukon was tentatively identified from photographs as pertaining to subspecies *serrirostris* (Eckert 2000). California has two records of single bean-geese from the Salton Sea area (9 December 2010 through 12 January 2011; 19 October 2013); the 2010-2011 record remains unidentified but is thought by most authorities to be a Taiga Bean-Goose (Nelson et al. 2013), whereas the 2013 record was more clearly a Tundra Bean-Goose, presumably *serrirostris* (P. E. Lehman, pers. comm.).

Both species of bean-goose are rare in North American waterfowl collections, perhaps because they are relatively plain in plumage (Mlodinow 2004, Howell et al. 2014). In the Yarmouth bird, the partly fresh first-fall plumage, lack of bands, and intact halluces suggest a wild origin. The bird was relatively approachable and became more accustomed to approach by people during its stay; however, such confiding behavior is frequently observed in wild waterfowl when they linger in urban parks among local waterfowl acclimated to the presence of people. For instance, in Nova Scotia, a Greater White-fronted Goose (*A. frontalis*) of the Greenland subspecies *flavirostris* (rarely kept in captivity) appeared in October 2008 on a golf course in Halifax and later became approachable at a small Halifax waterfront park through winter (Belbin 2009, McLaren 2012). There are many similar examples from both eastern and western North America, and it is clear

Table 1. Bill measurements (cf. Figure 3a) expressed as ratios of bill length with standard deviations (S.D.) and sample sizes (n). The standard deviations of the ratios, calculated from those of the original measurements from Ruokonen et al. (2008), are not corrected for non-normal distributions.

	Bill height/Bill length			Nail length/Bill length			Grin patch height/Bill length		
	Mean	S.D.	n	Mean	S.D.	n	Mean	S.D.	n
rossicus	0.531	0.037	10	0.285	0.020	9	0.126	0.018	10
serrirostris	0.537	0.035	14	0.289	0.033	14	0.122	0.017	14
Yarmouth goose	0.538			0.326			0.125		

Table 2. Bill measurements, expressed as ratios, of the Yarmouth goose compared with those of juvenile and adult Tundra Bean-Goose, subspecies *serrirostris*, from Kurechi et al. (1983) (cf. Figure 3b).

	Bill depth at nostril/Culmen length			Max. depth of mandible/Culmen length		
	Mean	S.D.	n	Mean	S.D.	n
Juvenile	0.430	0.037	10	0.191	0.018	10
Adult	0.428	0.034	25	0.184	0.018	21
Yarmouth goose	0.407			0.144		

that extralimital geese take some behavioral cues from local flocks they associate with; tame behavior in the context of urban or suburban goose flocks does not discount wild origin.

Keith Hobson (Environment Canada and University of Saskatchewan) undertook a hydrogen isotope analysis of a primary feather from the bean-goose found dead on the golf course. He writes: "the d^{2}H [deuterium] value is extremely negative (-199 per mil), as expected from a high-latitude origin." Analysis of photographs did not provide conclusive identification at the level of subspecies, but wild origin would appear to be confirmed by the deuterium value.

This record represents the third Canadian record of Tundra Bean-Goose and first for the Atlantic seaboard of North America.

Acknowledgments

I thank Tomas Aarvak, one of the authors of the Ruokonen et al. (2008) paper, for assistance with Figure 3a; Thede Tobish, for discussion of the Alaska records; Keith Hobson, for feather analysis; and Paul E. Lehman, for discussion of the California records; and Paul E. Lehman, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Louis R. Bevier, and Adam M. Byrne for review of early drafts of this paper.

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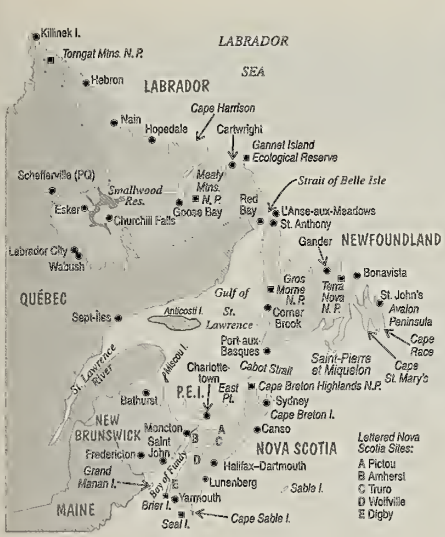
Killinek I.
Torngat Mtns. N. P.
LABRADOR SEA
Hebron
LABRADOR
Cape Harrison
Nain
Hopedale
Cartwright
Gannet Island Ecological Reserve
Schefferville (PQ)
Smallwood Res.
Mealy Mtns. N. P.
Strait of Belle Isle
Esker
Churchill Falls
Goose Bay
Red Bay
L'Anse-aux-Meadows
St. Anthony
Gander
NEWFOUNDLAND
Labrador City
Wabush
Gros Morne N. P.
Terra Nova N. P.
Bonavista
QUÉBEC
Gulf of St. Lawrence
St. John's
Avalon Peninsula
Sept-Îles
Anticosti I.
Corner Brook
Cape Race
Port-aux-Basques
St. Lawrence River
Miscou I.
Saint-Pierre et Miquelon
Cape St. Mary's
Charlottetown
Cabot Strait
Cape Breton Highlands N.P.
Bathurst
P.E.I.
East Pt.
Sydney
Cape Breton I.
NEW BRUNSWICK
Moncton
A
B
C
Canso
Saint John
NOVA SCOTIA
Lettered Nova Scotia Sites:
A Pictou
B Amherst
C Truro
D Wolfville
E Digby
Fredericton
D
Halifax–Dartmouth
Grand Manan I.
Bay of Fundy
E
Lunenberg
Sable I.
Yarmouth
MAINE
Brier I.
Seal I.
Cape Sable I.

David Seeler

A warm spring with below-normal to normal rainfall amounts preceded the nesting season. June was a month of contrasts in terms of rainfall, which ranged from slightly below to significantly above normal throughout the Region. However, the Region did suffer from a number of cold fronts that swept through, bringing lower temperatures and rain through to the latter part of June. Several of these events were accompanied by excessively high tides that seriously impacted ground nesting birds along shorelines and other bodies of water. These fronts slowed the movement of migratory birds into the northern half of the Region and negatively impacted early nesting species such as swallows in the southern half of the Region. It was not long before reports of concern were being expressed online not only in regards to nesting activity but also in relation to a perceived reduction in the numbers of birds moving into regions during and after the migration period. The last week of June through July brought exceptionally warm weather, leaving many temperature records shattered throughout the Region. Rainfall amounts during this period varied from slightly below to significantly above normal amounts across the Region.

Perhaps this season more so than last resulted in concern being expressed about the impact of weather upon migration and nesting success within the Region. Numerous online reports debated the population status of various species; reduced numbers were reported from many areas. Fortunately, other reports within the Region were more hopeful, with no perceived reductions noted. Clearly, more attention to these concerns in future is of paramount importance.

Table 1. Counts of herons and egrets in Atlantic Canada, summer 2013.

Species / Province	NB	NL	NS	PE
Gray Heron	0	1	0	0
Great Egret	3	0	2	3
Snowy Egret	1	0	1	0
Little Blue Heron	1	0	1	0
Tricolored Heron	0	1	1	0
Cattle Egret	1	0	1	0
Green Heron	0	0	2	0

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS

Three swans initially reported 28-29 May by various individuals at the Mactaquac Headpond, *York*, NB remained unidentified for a brief period of time (m.ob.). They were photographed at close range at L. George 28 May (ph. Brian Duncan) and on scrutiny of the photographs identified as Mute Swans, likely dispersing from the U.S. coastal population. There were apparently no sources of escaped captive swans in the Fredericton, NB area (*fide* David Christie). A **Tundra Swan** first discovered 27 May at Portugal Cove South, NL 1-4 Jun (Catherine Barrett, m.ob.) was a very rare find, with only a handful of previous reports (*fide* BM). Uncommon in Newfoundland, a male Wood Duck was first discovered 8 Jun at St. John's (Alison News) and was last reported in the same location 12 Jul (Lancy Cheng). Eurasian Wigeon is now reported annually on Prince Edward Island, and a male was located 2 Jun in the S.T.P. at Borden, PE (Greg & Sandra Feetham). Less common on St. Pierre et Miquelon, a pair of Ring-necked Ducks was observed 2 Jun at St. Pierre (PB). A male Ring-necked Duck was located 7 Jun on the Isthmus, Langlade, Miquelon (RE), and 3 males were found at the same location 3 Jul (RE, PB, Danielle Leobollocq). A female Ruddy Duck discovered 1 Jun at Mundy Pond, St. John's, NL (Bruce Tessier) was considered a good find for spring. Interestingly, the results of the B.B.S. routes in Newfoundland showed fewer ducks of any species, particularly American Wigeon and Canada Goose, as compared to previous years (*fide* Lois Bateman). Northern Fulmar has yet to nest on the French islands, but at least 5 were carefully checking out Colombier Island throughout most of Jul (JD). A **Cory's Shearwater** was discovered s. of St. Pierre 13 Jul (ph. JD), the fourth documented record there. Considered quite rare for St. Pierre et Miquelon, dozens to hundreds of Wilson's Storm-Petrels were observed 23 Jul s. of St. Pierre (JD).

Unexpected, an American White Pelican was discovered 9 Jun at Upper South Cove, *Lunenburg*, NS and lingered through 16 Jun (Charlene MacDonald, m.ob.). This provided Nova Scotia with its thirteenth record. A few days later, an American White Pelican—the same individual based on photographic analysis—arrived at Tabusintac, *Northumberland* NB 19 Jun–4 Jul (Rosita & Benoit Lanteigne, m.ob.). A rare breeder in New Brunswick, a Least Bittern was at Wilkin's Field, Saint John 15 Jun (Don Gibson, Nathan Staples). Great Blue Heron is quite uncommon in the French islands, with only 2 being observed there this season. The first was located 5 Jun on the Isthmus, Miquelon (ph. Philippe Lahiton); the other was found 19 Jul on the Sandbank of Grand Barachois, Miquelon (Axel Hacala, Florence Briand). The **Gray Heron** that arrived at Little Heart's Ease, NL in spring was last observed 12 Jun (Sharon Oram), the province's second confirmed record for that species. The summer influx of vagrant herons and egrets was moderate in 2013 and mostly confined to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia (Table 1). Of these, a **Tricolored Heron** was an extremely rare find at Tern Island, Renews, NL and represented the fifth record of the species in that province 7-18 Jun (*fide* Keith Fillier, Les Sweetapple).

A rare Tundra Swan was photographed lingered 27 May–4 (here 1) June 2013 at Portugal Cove South, Newfoundland. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*

Uncommon on St. Pierre et Miquelon, a single Osprey was reported on St. Pierre 20 Jun (RE). A Black Vulture, rare in New Brunswick, was a great find at Hopewell Hill, *Albert* 17 Jun (John Klymko). Despite being considered common in the French islands, only 2 Northern Harriers were observed this season. A female was located on Miquelon 21 Jul, and a male was present 21-22 Jul, possibly indicating a nesting pair (*fide* RE). Recently considered common on St. Pierre et Miquelon, only one Merlin was observed on n. St. Pierre throughout Jun (Patrick Hacala). Sora is considered rare on the French islands, but this season one appeared 6 Jun on a small pond on St. Pierre, with a second Sora found 8 Jul+ (PB, Patrick Hacala), leading to speculation that they could be a nesting pair. Also rare for Newfoundland, a Sora was heard calling 12 Jun at Lundrigan's Marsh, St. John's (Anne Hughes, Jared Clarke). American Coot is relatively uncommon both in Newfoundland and St. Pierre et Miquelon. The first of three American Coot reports came from Crooked

This American White Pelican was an unexpected discovery at Upper South Cove, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia 9-16 (here 14) June 2013. *Photograph by Richard Stern.*

Quite rare in Nova Scotia, this female Black-necked Stilt was discovered 8 July 2013 at Silver Sands Beach and lingered there through 13 July (here). *Photograph by Ian McLaren.*

Table 2. Piping Plover 2013 nesting season data by province, with data on productivity in 2012 nesting season for comparison.

Jurisdiction	Survey Count	Year end Count	# Chicks Fledged 2013	Productivity 2012	Productivity 2013
NB	91	105	69	2.07	1.60
NF	35	45	27	2.13	1.69
NS	98	105	51	1.53	1.02
PE	59	63	27	1.33	0.96
St. Pierre	2	4	3	–	3.00

Data courtesy of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Parks Canada, and Partners.

Tree Park, Sandy Cove, Eastport Peninsula, NL 4 Jun (Bruce & Fay Bradbury). Another was located on St. Pierre 23 Jun (Patrick Hacala), and the third was observed at Kent's Pond, St. John's, NL 25 Jun (Anne Hughes).

CRANES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Sandhill Cranes are becoming more common on Prince Edward Island, with one being reported at Glenfinnan, *Queen's*, PE 8 May (Mary Myers). A rare vagrant to Newfoundland, one was discovered at Bonavista 5 Jun (ph. Gerry Adams). A pair of Sandhill Crane was a very good find along the Georgefield Rd., *East Hants*, NS 26 Jun (*fide* Rob Woods). A pair of returning American Oystercatchers was observed 6 Jun during a trip to the Cape just off of Cape Sable Island, NS (Avery Nagy-MacArthur et al.). The breeding status of Piping Plover is of great concern throughout the Region, where it is considered Endangered (Table 2). A productivity level—defined as the number of chicks fledged per territorial pair—of 1.65 is required to maintain population numbers at 2006 levels (*fide* Gabrielle Fortin), and most values in the 2013 nesting season were below that mark. On St. Pierre et Miquelon, where Piping Plovers are quite uncommon, a nest with four eggs was discovered on the Isthmus, Miquelon Island 6 Jun (LJ). Three chicks and 2 ads. were observed at the same location 2 Jul, while on the next day 3 chicks were found close by at the Gully of the Grand Barachois, Miquelon (LJ). Cold stormy weather, high tides, and rain had negative impacts on nesting success both in Prince Edward Island, where nests were lost mid-month (*fide* Rick Hawkins), and in Nova Scotia, where the weather was not favorable for young (*fide* Sue Abbott). Considered a very rare find for Nova Scotia, an ad. female **Black-necked Stilt** was found at Silver Sands Beach, H.R.M., Cow Bay 8-13 Jul (ph. Nathan Hentze, m.ob.). An American Avocet was an unusual find at Marsh Creek, Saint John, NB 24-25 Jul (David Putt, m.ob.). Rare to the French islands, a Willet was found near Grand Barachois, Miquelon 3 Jul, and 2 were in the same location 7 Jul (LJ). An **Upland Sandpiper** was discovered on the Isthmus, Miquelon 3 Jul (LJ), providing the French islands with their fifth report of the species. Only observed occasionally on Prince Edward Island, a **Stilt Sandpiper** was discovered in the Prince Edward Island N.P. 28 Jul (David Seeler). The Stilt Sandpiper discovered on St. Pierre 29 Jul was a very rare find there (PB). A female Ruff was present at Shorebird Cove, Three Fathom Harbour, H.R.M., NS 6-7 Jul (Pat Mckay, Susann Myers). This is the third consecutive year that a Ruff has been discovered at Shorebird Cove in early Jul, with another being present in late Jul 2008 (*fide* Susann Myers). An American Woodcock heard 21 Jun at Gros Morne N.P. was considered rare for Newfoundland (Darroch Whitaker). Red Phalarope can be uncommon around Newfoundland's shorelines, so the count of 40 about 1.6 km off St. Shott's, Avalon Peninsula 22 Jun (Cliff Doran) was notable.

Black-legged Kittiwake appeared to be doing better this season, with a larger colony on White Horse Island, NB with parents appearing to be very attentive to their young (*fide* Todd Watts) perhaps a bright spot as compared to other areas within the Region (see SA box). Based on observations made by Blake Maybank during a trip to Pearl Island and environs, H.R.M. 15 Jul, it appeared that breeding success there for most species was low (*fide* Blake Maybank). Laughing Gull reports were up this season. Participants on a pelagic trip 1 Jun found one at Tinker's Island, NB in the Bay of Fundy (Nick Hawkins, ph. Merv Cormier, Carol Ball et al.). An ad. Laughing Gull, rare for St. Pierre et Miquelon, was first discovered on St. Pierre 2 Jun and later was observed at Miquelon 9 Jun and 15 Jul (RE). An ad. Laughing Gull was photographed and videotaped at Quidi Vidi Lake, Saint John's, NL 8 Jun (ph., vt. Tania Anctil). A tour group visiting Newfoundland had a great day 2 Jul when they discovered a Laughing Gull just s. of Placentia, Avalon Peninsula (*fide* Catherine Barrett).

SA Eric Mills reports: "All was certainly not well with terns and alcids during this nesting season. As a result of very cold wet weather in June, many Common and Arctic Terns either abandoned their colonies or raised very few young. This seems to have been also true of Black-legged Kittiwakes in the small colony along the South Shore at Pearl Island, *Lunenburg*, NS and probably also of many alcids. Atlantic Puffins and Razorbills on Machias Seal Island, NB either failed to raise young or were observed feeding young into early Sep, which is exceptionally late. This compounds these alcid species' problems after a winter when large numbers of them perished of starvation along the e. coast of North America."

Franklin's Gull is very uncommon in Newfoundland. This adult at Witless Bay 7-11 (here 8) June was one of three reported in the province in summer 2013. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*

The last report was of 2 ad. Laughing Gulls at Woodward's Cove, Grand Manan Island, NB 27 Jul (Roger Burrows). Still more unusual were the reports of 3 Franklin's Gulls this season. An ad. Franklin's was quite a rare find at Carbonear, NL 7 Jun (Reginald Winsor); the next was at Witless Bay, Avalon Peninsula, NL 7–11 Jun (Chris Ryan, m.ob.); and the last was seen flying se. from St. Vincent's Beach, Avalon Peninsula, NL 19 Jul (BM).

Caspian Tern is considered rare in the French islands. Singles were at Mirande Lake, Miquelon 1 Jun and 6 Jul (LJ). Another was near the village of Miquelon 15 Jul, while a fourth was observed at St. Pierre the same day (JD). In New Brunswick, a Caspian Tern was w. of South Wolf Island, *Charlotte* 21 Jul (Nick Hawkins et al.). Finally, 2 were observed at St. Vincent's Beach, Avalon Peninsula, NL 13 Jul (Catherine & Paul Barrett). Roseate Tern nests on the Brother's Islands, Lobster Bay, *Yarmouth*, NS increased from 34 in 2012 to 38 in 2013 (*fide* Ted D'Eon). However, bad weather and precipitation exerted a toll on unhatched eggs and chicks, with only 17 Roseate Tern chicks being banded 10 Jul (Ted D'Eon). An estimate of hundreds of Arctic Terns were reported at West Isles, *Charlotte*, NB during a pelagic trip (Nick Hawkins et al.). A **Sandwich Tern** frequented Renews, Avalon Peninsula, NL 30 Jun–2 Jul (Lena Senko, Chris Benesh et al.), providing the fourth record for the province. A **Sandwich Tern** observed at St. Vincent's Beach, Avalon Peninsula, NL 13 Jul was possibly the same bird (Catherine & Paul Barrett). The subspecies involved in such records would be of great interest, as at a Eurasian Sandwich Tern (nominate subspecies) has been verified at least once in North America, 31 Jul 2013 at Cape Cod, MA and possibly also at Tadoussac, Québec in 2008.

A Great Skua was reported s. of St. Pierre 7 Jul (JD). A South Polar Skua, relatively uncommon in Newfoundland waters, was observed harassing shearwaters 21 Jul at Cape Spear, Avalon Peninsula (BM). Unusually high numbers of Razorbills were noted gathering along the Western Isles, *Charlotte*, NB 17 Jul (Todd Watts), the significance of which is unknown. At least on Machias Seal Island, NB, the number of Atlantic Puffins present seemed to be reduced 21 Jun (*fide* Ralph Eldridge), but the significance of this observation is also unknown.

White-winged Doves are not reported annually in the Region during the summer season; most such reports are leftovers from the spring, as was the case this season. One arrived on St. Pierre 29 May and lingered through 2 Jun (Patrick Hacala). Another turned up at a feeder in Middle Pond Hollow, NL 1 Jun (Sharon Tucker). Relatively uncommon in Newfoundland, a Northern Hawk Owl was observed 18 Jun at Main River, Great Northern Peninsula (Darroch Whitaker et al.). Another at Castor River, also on the Great Northern Peninsula, 12 Jul was the observers' first for the summer season there (John & Ivy Gibbons). A Short-eared Owl, uncommon in New Brunswick, provided an unexpected surprise when it was observed hunting a field at Beausejour Marsh, *Westmorland* during midday 14 Jul (ph. Louise Nichols). Another Short-eared Owl, relatively uncommon on the French islands, was around n. St. Pierre 2, 10, & 17 Jul (LJ). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was a rare find on St. Pierre 2-4 Jun (Patrick Hacala). An ad. male **Rufous Hummingbird** located 31 Jul along Red Head Rd., *Saint John*, NB was a very rare find for the province and provided its second record (ph. Roger Burrows). American Three-toed Wood-

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

*	specimen collected
+	bird(s) seen through end of period
†	written details on file
A.F.B.	Air Force Base
acc.	accepted by records committee
A.R.C.	Avian Records Committee
b.	banded
B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey
B.O.	Bird Observatory
B.R.C.	Bird Records Committee
C.A.	Conservation Area
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count
C.P.	County Park
cm	centimeter(s)
Fwy.	Freeway
G.C.	Golf Course
Hwy.	Highway
imm. (imms.)	immature(s)
Jct.	Junction
juv. (juvs.)	juvenile(s)
km	kilometer(s)
mm	millimeter(s)
m.ob.	many (or multiple) observers
N.A.	Nature Area, Natural Area
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.S.	National Seashore
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
p.a.	pending acceptance
P.P.	Provincial Park
ph.	photographed (by + initials)
R.A.	Recreation(al) Area
R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert
R.P.	Regional Park
R.S.	Regional Shoreline
Rd.	Road
Rte.	Route
S.B.	State Beach
S.L.	Sewage Lagoon
S.F.	State Forest
S.G.A.	State Game Area
S.P.	State Park
S.R.A.	State Recreation Area
S.R.	State Reserve
S.N.A.	State Natural Area
S.W.A.	State Wildlife Area
S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant/Pond
subad. (subads.)	subadult(s)
Twp.	Township
v.r.	voice recording (by + initials)
vt.	videotape (by + initials)
W.A.	Wildlife Area
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste)water Treatment Plant/Pond

Italics indicate name of a county, parish, or municipality.

This Crested Caracara was photographed 7 July 2013 at Canso, Nova Scotia and had been in the province since 30 March. *Photograph by Ron d'Entremont.*

pecker is a rare resident of New Brunswick, generally found in the cen. and n. highlands. A female was discovered at Odell Park, Fredericton 6 Jun (Peter Pearce, Doug Jackson).

CARACARA THROUGH FINCHES

Nova Scotia's luck continued when a **Crested Caracara** was discovered 7 Jul just outside of Canso, *Guysborough* (ph. Ron d'Entremont). Analysis of photographs strongly suggests that that this was the same bird found at Lawrencetown, H.R.M. by Frank Gummett 30 Mar (*fide* IM). Olive-side Flycatcher is quite uncommon on St. Pierre et Miquelon, where one was noted on St. Pierre 5 Jun (Nathalie Michel). An early Alder Flycatcher, rare to the French islands, was heard singing near Mirande Lake, Miquelon 1 Jun (LJ). A second Alder was observed on St. Pierre 3 Jun (Patrick Hacala), and 2 more were discovered at Langlade, Miquelon 12 Jun (LJ). Also rare to the French islands, 3 Least Flycatchers were reported: on Miquelon 1 Jun (LJ), on St. Pierre 2 Jun (Patrick Hacala), and at Langlade, Miquelon 12 Jun (LJ). To date, there has been no confirmed breeding of Least Flycatcher for St. Pierre et Miquelon. An Eastern Phoebe, considered rare in Newfoundland, was discovered along Red Rocks Rd. in the Codroy Valley, 9 Jun (John William, Dave Hawkins, Mike Parmeter); 2 phoebes were there 24 Jun (Todd Boland, Anne Hughes). In Nova Scotia, Eastern Phoebe is a rare summer resident; a pair was discovered with young in a nest under a rock ledge along the river at St. Croix, *Hants* 23 Jun (ph. Ryan Harvey). Two Eastern Kingbirds were located in Newfoundland, where fairly uncommon. The first was discovered 22 Jun on the e. coast at Eastport (Bruce & Fay Bradbury); the other was on the sw. coast at Millville, Codroy Valley 24 Jun (Todd Boland, Anne Hughes). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was a rare find on Robert's Island, *Yarmouth*, NS 16 Jun (Jerome d'Eon, m.ob.). Fairly uncommon in Prince Edward Island, a Warbling Vireo was reported at Whitlock's Pond, *Kings* 17 Jun (John Somers). Considered very rare in Nova Scotia, a singing Warbling Vireo was observed at Lakeview, *Kings* 24 Jul and was possibly the same bird noted singing in early Jul at the same locale (Nancy Dowd).

Rare vagrants to Newfoundland, several Purple Martins were discovered at Cappahayden, Avalon Peninsula 4 Jun (Clara Dunne, Dave Brown); not far away, 2 Purple Martins were noted on the Lower Coast, Trepassey 6 Jun (Cliff Doran), indicating a good movement of birds to Newfoundland. It appeared as though Tree Swallow nesting was severely limited in some areas due to a cold spring, which presumably reduced the amount of food. There were reports of dead clutches being found at Gaspereau, NS in Jun (*fide* Andy Horne), and there were numerous reports of unused nest boxes and reduced Tree Swallow activity in New Brunswick in Jun as well (*fide*, Nelson Poirier). Only a few individuals were reported on St. Pierre, with two pairs using nesting boxes in Jun (*fide* Patrick Hacala). Two Cliff Swallows were a rare find among 4 Bank Swallows near the village of Miquelon 9 Jun (RE). Unfortunately, they did not linger. Rare migrants to New Brunswick, 3 Carolina Wrens were reported this season. The first was at Fredericton 15-18 Jun (Don Gibson). A pair was unexpectedly discovered in atypical habitat of spruce deadfall at Indian Beach, Grand Manan Island 26 Jun (Roger Burrows). The House Wren population varies in New Brunswick; one summered at Woodward's Cove, along Shore Rd., Grand Manan Island (Roger Burrows). Eastern Bluebird is an occasional visitor to Prince Edward Island, with only three previously known successful nesting attempts. This season, a pair of Eastern Bluebirds was discovered feeding young at a nest box on Hennebury Rd., Rice Point, *Queens* (Heather MacDonald, ph. Dwaine Oakley, David Seeler). Now rare to the French islands, a Gray-cheeked Thrush was heard calling near Mirande Lake, Miquelon 2 & 22 Jul (RE). A Brown Thrasher, very uncommon in Nova Scotia, was discovered singing in a backyard in Dartmouth, H.R.M. 19 Jun (David Currie). Another was was heard singing in a blueberry field along Spear Rd., *Charlotte*, NB 26 Jun (Gilbert Bouchard). The last report of the season was of one at Sambro Head, H.R.M., NS 4 Jul (Bruce Curtis). A **Common Myna** was unexpectedly discovered 2 Jul at Lower West Pubnico, Pubnico Point, *Yarmouth*, NS (ph. Ron d'Entremont, m.ob.). The bird apparently had been present in the area for about a month (*fide* Clarence Stevens). It was last observed 11 Jul at the same location. At her bird feeders at Seal Cove, Grand Manan Island, NB, Ava Sturgeon noted a very unusual bird 21 Jul that she identified quickly as a **Common Myna** (ph. Charlie & Claudia Brown, m.ob.). Detailed analysis of photographs of both birds by Ian McLaren and Jim Wilson indicated that they were different individuals (*fide* Jim Wilson, IM). The question of provenance will certainly play a role in discussions of these birds by the respective committees.

A rare vagrant to Newfoundland, a **Prothonotary Warbler** was photographed 31 Jul 300 km e. of St. John's, NL on the Grand Banks (*fide* BM), just the fourth record for the province. A rare visitor to the French islands, a female Black-throated Blue Warbler was found near a feeder at St. Pierre 1 Jun (JD). A Blackburnian Warbler at St. Pierre 2 Jun was also locally rare (Patrick Hacala, PB). Two male Hooded Warblers were exceptionally rare finds on Machias Seal Island, NB 21 Jun (Ralph Eldridge). Pine Warbler is considered rare in Nova Scotia, so it was a surprise to find a pair carrying food, with one or 2 additional Pine Warblers singing at Miller Point, *Lunenburg* 15 Jun (Eric Mills). During the same period, another pair was located and photographed at Carrigan Hill, West Caledonia, *Queens*, NS, with yet another male singing close by (ph. Andrew MacDonald), suggesting that the pine woods in these areas meet the needs of the species for breeding (*fide* IM).

Rare at any time of year, but particularly so during summer, a Field Sparrow was discovered at Cape Light, Cape Sable Island, NS 20 Jun (Ron d'Entremont). Grasshopper Sparrow is very rare in New Brunswick, with few previous summer reports, so discovering one on Machias Seal Island, NB 3-7 Jun (Lauren Scopel, Tony Diamond et al.) was exceptional. A rare spring overshoot to New Brunswick, a Summer Tanager was briefly observed 11 Jun at Lower Sackville (Dennis Garratt). Indigo Bunting is rare in Newfoundland, so it was a pleasant surprise when a brilliant ad. male was observed and photographed at a feeder in Cappahayden, Avalon Peninsula 1 Jun (ph. Beth Ryan). In an attempt to locate the male at Cappahayden, birders found a female Indigo Bunting at the same feeder 2 Jun (Todd Boland, Anne Hughes). The same day, photographs of an ad. male Indigo Bunting were received from Ferryland, NL (*fide* BM), probably the same bird reported earlier. A female Blue Grosbeak was a very unusual find for the season on Brier Island, NS 7 Jul (Dennis Garratt).

This Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was photographed 16 June 2013 at the home of Jerome d'Eon on Robert's Island, Nova Scotia. *Photograph by Jerome d'Eon.*

Red-winged Blackbird is fairly uncommon on the French islands; a male was noted on the Isthmus, Miquelon 5 Jun (ph. Philippe Lahiton). Generally considered a rare migrant in New Brunswick, a male Yellow-headed Blackbird provided the province with its third spring record of the species at Musquash, *Saint John* 16-17 Jun (ph. Neil Galbraith). A Brown-headed Cowbird was a very unusual visitor to a feeder at St. Pierre 29 Jul (Patrick Hacala). A male Orchard Oriole at Roach's Pond, H.R.M. 1 Jun (ph. Ray Staszk) was likely a late overshoot, but another discovered at Lower West Pubnico, *Yarmouth*, NS was an unexpected find for the time of year (ph. Alix d'Entremont).

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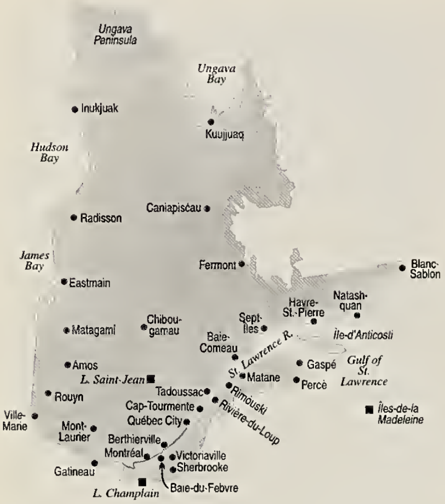

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June 2013 was cooler than normal over southern and northern Québec, particularly east of Québec city, and warmer than normal over central northern Québec. Rainfall was above normal in most regions south of the Saint-Lawrence, in the Ottawa valley and in the Laurentians, and below normal in Abitibi, the Lower North Shore, and all of northern Québec. The above-normal rainfall in southern Québec was particularly important given it followed a very rainy second half of May. On average, July was slightly warmer than normal, except in Nunavik where it was below normal and the North-Shore where it was near normal. The Upper Saint-Lawrence received 50% to 70% the normal rainfall, whereas the Lower Saint Lawrence and Upper North Shore received as little as 30%. On the other hand, in eastern Gaspé Peninsula and Lower North Shore, the final third of July was particularly wet.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

A Greater White-fronted Goose, rare in summer, was at Saint-Bruno-de-Guigues 2-5 Jun (JF). Two Mute Swans visited Yamachiche 4 Jun (J. Gélinas, M. Bourassa). A pair of **Trumpeter Swans** discovered 30 Apr at Val d'Or was observed with 4 cygnets 3 Jul+, confirming a second breeding record for the Abitibi region and for the province (ph. R. Ladurantaye et al.); singles were also seen at Béarn 5 Jun (MG, JF) and at Fugèreville in Témiscamingue 5-7 Jun (MG). Single male Eurasian Wigeons were at Rimouski 2-10 Jun (G. Proulx et al.), Cacouna 1-26 Jun (JC. Pelletier), and Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 12 Jul (PB). A female Lesser Scaup with 4 ducklings at Ville-Marie 18 Jul furnished a first nesting record for Témiscamingue (JF). A male Tufted Duck was a surprise at Sept-Îles 16-19 Jun (ph., JF. Laporte). Aerial surveys conducted by the Canadian Wildlife Service 21-29 May in the Charlevoix and Saguenay regions and along the North Shore recorded the presence of Barrow's Goldeneyes in 42 additional Atlas squares (C. Lepage, C. Marcotte, S. Orichefsky).

A young Common Loon, still flightless, was seen in the seaway near the Beauharnois dam 26 Jul, possibly a first confirmed breeding record for extreme sw. Québec (ph., D. Collins). A Leach's Storm-Petrel was identified off Rivière-du-Loup 15 Jul (T. Beck, G. Milks, S. Milks). Rare at all seasons in the St. Lawrence estuary, an imm. Great Cormorant was at Baie-Comeau 12 Jul (OB). Single American White Pelicans were found in Rupert Bay 23 Jun (MA. Montpetit) and at Terrebonne 12-21 Jul (JP. Hameury, m.ob.). A Yellow Rail was heard singing at Pointe-à-la-Croix, Gaspésie 11 Jul, a first report for this locality (MR). A pair of Sandhill Cranes with 2 young was videotaped at Calumet, close to Montréal 30 Jun, a new breeding site for sw. Québec (P. Franche et al.).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH JAEGERS

An American Avocet was a rare find at Métis-sur-Mer 4 Jun, the first in five years for the Region (ph. J. Fortin, J. Rousseau, J. Tremblay). Six ad. Willets and a downy chick were observed on Île-du-Havre-Aubert 30 Jun, confirming a second breeding record for the Magdalen Islands since the beginning of the Atlas project (HT). An ad. Long-billed Dowitcher was nicely photographed at Pointe-de-l'Est 27 Jul, exceptional for the Magdalen Islands (AR). Once regular, although never common along the St. Lawrence valley, Wilson's Phalaropes seem to have almost disappeared as a nesting species in the Region. The only sightings this summer involved single ads. at Cabano 9 Jun (M. Beaulieu) and at Hudson 16 Jun (W. Grubert) and a migrating juv. at Saint-Basile-le-Grand 21 Jul (SD). No breeding confirmation has been recorded since the beginning of the Atlas in 2010. An American Woodcock near Fermont 5 Jun (OB, TL) may represent a range extension if it indeed breeds locally; the species is unrecorded in adjacent Labrador West.

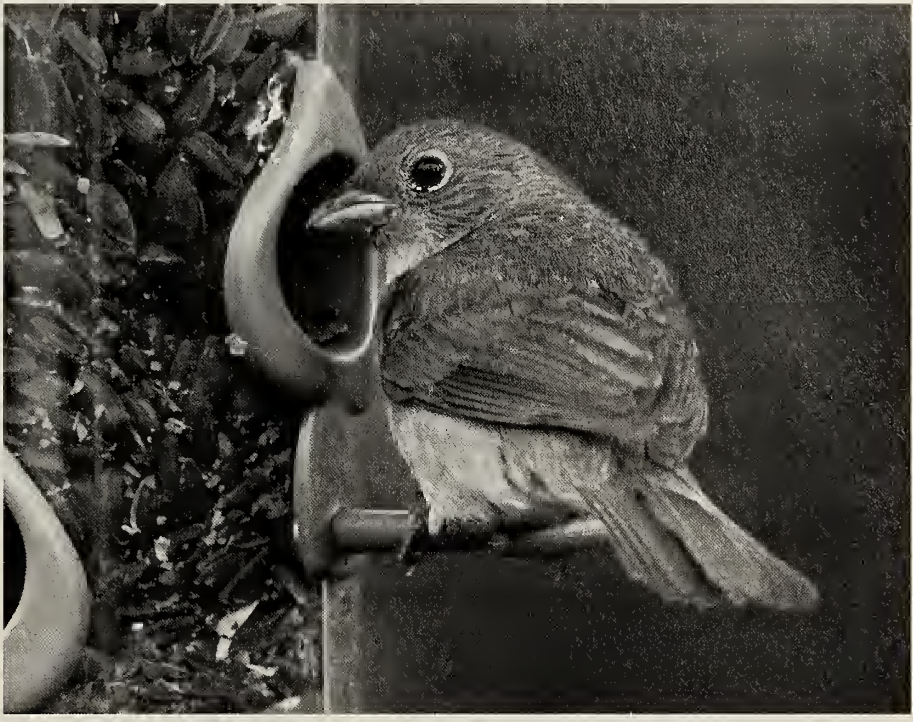
Once again this summer, 2 Roseate Terns were located at Grande-Entrée, Magdalen Islands 15-31 Jul (AR, DG. Gaudet, HT). An ad. **Sandwich Tern** discovered at Saint-Irénée 4 Jun (PO, FL) was seen again at nearby La Malbaie 6 Jun (SB, SL). This provides the third record for the Region. Identification at the subspecies level remained undetermined in this case, but re-examination of photographs from Tadoussac in 2008 seems to point out toward the Eurasian subspecies (*fide* SD). Seldom reported in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, 2 Long-tailed Jaegers patrolled the beach at Rivière-Brochu, Sept-Îles 4 Jun (OB, TL).

DOVES THROUGH WRENS

Single Eurasian Collared-Doves were at Chibougamau 8 Jun and 3 Jul (AA), Saint-Fabien-de-Lotbinière 15 Jun–20 Jul (JP), and Sainte-Brigide-d'Iberville 26 Jul+ (H. Méthot). A White-winged Dove at Sept-Îles 9-10 Jun was probably the same bird that had been reported there in mid-May (BD, CC).

Single Great Gray Owls at Rimouski 26 Jun (R. Lesmerises, *fide* M. Jaffré) and at Mont-Laurier 13-21 Jun (C. Melançon et al.) were well outside their breeding range, though

This Long-billed Dowitcher (accompanied by a Short-billed Dowitcher, left) was photographed at Pointe-de-l'Est, Québec 27 July 2013, furnishing a very rare record for the Magdalen Islands. *Photograph by Alain Richard.*



This female Painted Bunting at Trois-Rivières 29 June made the second record for Québec in 2013. *Photograph by André Martel.*

the phenomenon of southerly lingerers appears to occur following each invasion. It is unclear whether a singing Eastern Whip-poor-will some 60 km n. of Baie-Comeau 19 Jun (C. Buidin, YR) was a vagrant or whether the species might be a rare breeder in that area. The northernmost currently known outpost for this species is at La Doré in the Lac-Saint-Jean area, where 3 birds were heard singing 19 Jun (C. Bellemare, J. Tremblay, J. Rousseau). A male **Rufous Hummingbird** at Rivière-Rouge, Laurentides region 18-23 Jul represented an extremely early fall migrant (ph. A. Tourangeau, *fide* J. Turgeon). Red-bellied Woodpeckers were confirmed breeding at Châteauguay for the eighth consecutive year (m.ob.).

A fiercely territorial Eastern Wood-Pewee 65 km n-.nw. of Manic 5-28 Jun made an unexpected discovery (F. Morneau, C. Vallières). A singing **Acadian Flycatcher** was present at Notre-Dame-du-Nord, Témiscamingue 4-27 Jun for the third consecutive summer (JF). A Say's Phoebe at La Malbaie 2 Jun (PO, FL, A. Rasmussen) was a great late spring find. Marking a sixth record for the North Shore and already a twenty-seventh overall was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Magpie 28 Jun (V. Vogel). A Yellow-throated Vireo at Cap-aux-Meules 1 Jun (ph. AR) represented a first for the Magdalen Islands archipelago. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were confirmed breeding at two sites in the Témiscamingue region this summer (JF). The species had not been confirmed in the Region during the first breeding bird atlas nor during either of the Ontario atlas projects. Sedge Wren was confirmed breeding at Lac Limoges, Mont-Laurier 2 Jun–16 Jul, where locally quite unusual (A. Boisclair); this also represents the first confirmed breeding in the province in the four years since the beginning of the breeding bird atlas project.

WAXWINGS THROUGH ORIOLES

A pair of Bohemian Waxwings no more than 30 km nw. of Sept-Îles 25 Jul+ was probably breeding (BD, CC). A male Cerulean Warbler at Neuville 1 Jun provided one of very few records for the thoroughly birded Québec City region (SL, SB), while another at La Pêche Lake, Outaouais region was at a new potential breeding site (R. Dubois, D. Dallaire). A Pine Warbler at Saint-Narcisse-de-Rimouski 16 Jun was a good summer find for the Lower St. Lawrence (G. Gendron). The discovery of about 10 Canada Warblers in a 0.5 km^2 patch of forest at Saint-Chrysostome s. of Montréal 25-26 Jun is great interest for this locally rare and generally threatened species (PB). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Cap Tourmente 7 Jun (G. Cyr, J. Bernier) had the distinction of being the third individual in the past decade to show up in the same spot and at same time of year.

A Clay-colored Sparrow at Havre-Saint-Pierre 2-7 Jun (JP) was very far from the species' core range of Témiscamingue in the Region, while 4 singing males in abandoned farmland at Pierrefonds 15 Jun (J. Coutu, M. Beaupré) represented a good concentration and an interesting record for the island of Montréal. A Lark Sparrow at Georgeville 1-3 Jun (A. Cyr, F. Bergeron) represented the third record for the Estrie region. A Grasshopper Sparrow at Île-aux-Alumettes 7 Jul was w. of its known haunts in the Outaouais region (R. Bisson, J. Savard). Single Le Conte's Sparrows at Les Bergeronnes, Longue-Rive, and Colombier in Jun (M. Roberge et al.) practically doubled the number of previous records for the North Shore, while another at Bridgeville 9 Jul (MR) was the second for the Gaspésie region.

Northern Cardinal was confirmed breeding for the first time this summer in Abitibi-Témiscamingue region at at Ville-Marie (JF) and in the Saguenay–Lac Saint-Jean region at Chambord (JG. Gagnon et al.). A female-type **Painted Bunting** was photographed at Trois-Rivières 29 Jun (A. Martel, S. Goudreau), a thirteenth record for the province and the second this year. A Dickcissel at Chibougamau 1 Jun (AA) was quite possibly a first for the Nord-du-Québec region. Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported this summer, all but one in the Gaspésie: an imm. male at Bridgeville 1-2 Jun (D. Jalbert et al.), a first ad. male at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 4-6 Jun (D. Lebouthilier), a second at Pabos Mills 10 Jun (M. Garant), and finally one at Magpie, *Côte-Nord* in Jun (*fide* YR). An ad. male Orchard Oriole was at Saint-Armand 26 Jun, an area where the species has bred in the past (JG. Papineau). A belated report also involved an ad. male photographed at Windsor 10 May (M. Beaucher, *fide* F. Langlois).

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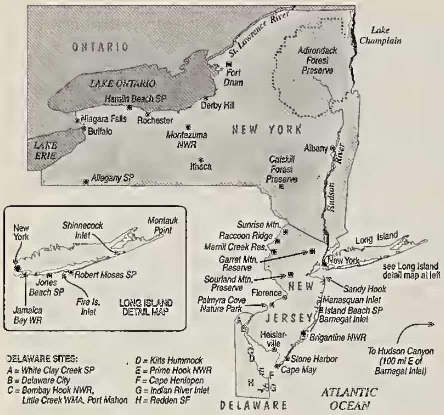
Hudson-Delaware


ONTARIO
St. Lawrence River
Lake Champlain
Adirondack Forest Preserve
Fort Drum
LAKE ONTARIO
Hamlin Beach SP
Derby Hill
Niagara Falls
Rochester
Buffalo
Montezuma NWR
NEW YORK
LAKE ERIE
Albany
Ithaca
Catskill Forest Preserve
Hudson River
Allegany SP
New York
Shinnecock Inlet
Montauk Point
Robert Moses SP
Jones Beach SP
Jamaica Bay WR
Fire Is. Inlet
LONG ISLAND DETAIL MAP
Sunrise Mtn.
Raccoon Ridge
Merrill Creek Res.
Garret Mtn. Reserve
Sourland Mtn. Preserve
Long Island
New York
see Long Island detail map at left
Sandy Hook
NEW JERSEY
Florence
Palmyra Cove Nature Park
Manasquan Inlet
Island Beach SP
Barnegat Inlet
Heislerville
Brigantine NWR
Stone Harbor
Cape May
To Hudson Canyon (100 mi E of Barnegat Inlet)
DELAWARE SITES:
A = White Clay Creek SP
B = Delaware City
C = Bombay Hook NWR, Little Creek WMA, Port Mahon
D = Kitts Hummock
E = Prime Hook NWR
F = Cape Henlopen
G = Indian River Inlet
H = Redden SF
DELAWARE
ATLANTIC OCEAN

Shaibal S. Mitra
Robert O. Paxton
Tom Reed
Frank Rohrbacher

A very wet summer followed a wet, cool spring. The Adirondacks and foothills were inundated by 25-30 cm (10-12 inches) more rain than normal. Wilmington, Delaware had the wettest June on record.

Flooding in the Mohawk River system eliminated streamside nests, and loon nests were submerged by rising lakes (Gary Lee). June cold snaps in New York damaged Eastern Bluebird reproduction (RPY), and Tree Swallows had their worst season in a thirty-year study at Cornell University (David Winkler). On the plus side were abundant insect food and heavy fruit production for later (MMcC). Coastal storms and high tides caused a "catastrophe" for terns and skimmers in Barnegat Bay (JBu), and predation further battered colonial waterbirds.

The first southbound migrants appeared as usual by mid-season (see shorebirds, warblers). Rarities included Brown Booby, Red-necked Stint, Franklin's Gull, Elegant Tern, and Fork-tailed Flycatcher.

Abbreviations: Batavia (W.W.T.P., *Genesee*, NY); Bombay Hook (N.W.R., *Kent*, DE); Braddock Bay (B.O., *Monroe*, NY); Brig (Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., *Atlantic*, NJ); Carlton Hill (M.U.A., Bethany, *Wyoming*, NY); Cupsogue (county park e. of Moriches Inlet, *Suffolk*, Long Island); Derby Hill (hawkwatch, se. corner of Lake Ontario, Mexico, *Oswego*, NY); D.N.R.E.C. (Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation); Dunkirk (harbor on Lake Erie), Fahnestock (Clarence Fahnestock S.P., *Putnam*, NY); Fort Drum (Fort Drum U.S. Army Military Reservation, *Jefferson*, NY); Hamlin Beach (S.P. on Lake Ontario w. of Rochester, NY); Henlopen (Cape Henlopen S.P., *Sussex*, DE); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, NYC); Lakehurst (Lakehurst Naval Air Station, *Ocean*, NJ); Little Galloo Island (Lake Ontario off *Jefferson*, NY); Montauk (e. point of Long Island); Montezuma (N.W.R., *Seneca*, NY); N. Montezuma (W.M.A., *Wayne*, NY, formerly Savannah wetlands); N.J.D.F.G.W. (New Jersey Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife); N.Y.S.D.E.C. (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation); Pea Patch (island in Delaware River, *New Castle*, DE); Prime Hook (N.W.R., *Sussex*, DE); Robert Moses (S.P., *Suffolk*, NY); Strathmere (Strathmere N.A., Corson's Inlet, *Cape May*, NJ).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GREBES

The only Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were 2 at King's Creek Country Club, *Sussex*, DE 15-18 Jul (Sharon Lynn, Susan Gruver, TS). In addition to the usual coastal lingerers, unusual parties of Snow Geese summered inland (maximum of 8 at Skaneateles Lake, *Cayuga/Onandaga*, NY through 25 Jun (Ken Burdick). In New York, ever-spreading Trumpeter Swans bred at Montezuma (*fide* RGS), at Volney, *Oswego* (Judy Wright, Wayne Fidler, ph Mitch Nusbaum), and probably at Upper and Lower Lakes W.M.A., *St. Lawrence* (JBo). An eclipse-plumaged male Eurasian Wigeon was unseasonable at Montezuma 22 Jul (JMcG,. m.ob.). Among the usual summering scoters, Blacks were abundant, with 36 at Henlopen 28 Jul (Alex Lamoureaux, TS, Chad Kauffmann, Steve Brenner) and 250 at Nickerson Beach, *Nassau*, NY 10 Jun (BF). Although Ruddy Ducks summered at traditional sites, including Batavia (Kurt Fox), Wreck Pond, *Monmouth*, NJ (AF), and Prime Hook (FR), they do not nest in the Region currently, to our knowledge.

Spahn found 4 Ring-necked Pheasants on his B.B.S. route at Keuka Lake S.P., *Yates*, NY, versus 80-90 two decades ago (RGS). The N.J.D.F.W. estimated that 2781 hunters killed 837 Ruffed Grouse in New Jersey in 2011-2012, compared with 29,539 killed in 1985-1986. Wild Turkeys have moved oppositely: 3162 bagged in 2010-2011 versus 334 in 1985-1986 (*fide* Bill Boyle). The only Spruce Grouse sighting was at Spring Pond Bog, *Franklin*, NY 2 Jul (Gordon Dimmig). The twelfth Common Loon survey by the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, on 21 Jul 2012 [the most recent available], found 741 on 158 of 206 lakes in New York (626 ads., 92 chicks, and 23 imms.). Chicks and imms. have increased gradually since the first survey. A few early Jun migrants are normal, but a surprising 412 headed ne. off Amagansett, *Nassau*, NY early 8 Jun after a storm (AW). An Eared Grebe in breeding plumage summered 18 Jun+ at Batavia (Kurt Fox et al.), site of recurring late summer records since 1995; the species has bred in Ontario.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH HERONS

Notable from shore were 230 eastbound Cory's Shearwaters 12 Jul off Georgica Beach, *Suffolk*, NY (NB). An impressive 500 Great Shearwaters mingled with marine mammals and other tubenoses 15-20 km se. of Montauk 7 Jul (Arthur Kopelman). Manx Shearwater, or perhaps observer confidence, appears to be increasing. Three were seen from shore at Amagansett 8 Jun after the remnants of Tropical Storm *Andrea* (AW), and 4 were off Georgica Beach 9 Jul (NB), both *Suffolk*, NY; the most offshore were 5 ca.18 km sse. of Montauk 21 Jul (SA, Mary Normandia, Patricia Aitken). The same excursion encountered an impressive 1700 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Leach's Storm-Petrels were found only far offshore, as usual, with a maximum of 6 off Montauk 14 Jul (John Shemilt, DR, AW).

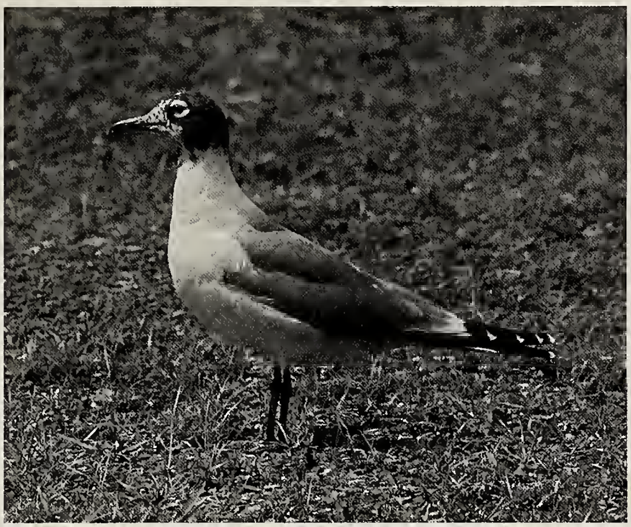
An imm. Brown Booby appeared at Seven Presidents Park, Long Branch, *Monmouth*, NJ 2-4 Jul (ph. Patrick Becker, ph. Pam Prichard, ph. Larry Scacchetti, Andrew Spears) and roamed the cen. New Jersey coast until 21 Jul at Barnegat Light (Mark French, MBr). This species has appeared in New Jersey in five of the past six years, mainly Jul–Sep. The now-annual American White Pelican show was already underway in New York in late May, with 2 on the upper Niagara River until 11 Jun (Betsy Potter). An apparently different individual overflew Hamlin Beach 1 Jun (AG); one that visited Iroquois N.W.R., *Orleans/Genesee* 13-16 Jul (WW, ph Sue Barth, m.ob.) and one that settled at Montezuma 20 Jul+ (Mark Miller et al.) were possibly the same. A cluster of Mohawk Valley records 16 Jun–3 Jul (Richard Guthrie, Dan Furbish et al.) were likely of one bird. One frequented the lower Hudson River 9-12 Jun (Evan Mark et al.), providing a *Rockland*, NY first. Another, conceivably from the Hudson, visited Long Island Sound at Stony Brook Harbor 17 Jun (Dianne Taggert). An outlier soared over Barnes Corners, *Lewis*, NY 4 Jul (Gerry Smith). In all, at least 5-7 birds were involved. Off Delaware Seashore S.P., *Sussex*, DE 29 Jul, 105 Brown Pelicans constituted the highest Delaware total since 2004 (CB, Karen Bennett).

After 14 years of population control 2387 Double-crested Cormorant nests remained on Little Galloo, down from 8410 in 1996. The Gardiner's Island, *Suffolk*, NY colony, rarely counted, reached 750 pairs (MS). New York harbor cormorants swelled again to 1586 (1306 in 2011) (EC). Before 1970, barely a hundred pairs nested around Lake Ontario. An ad. male Anhinga at Prime Hook 14 Jul (BGP) did not linger.

A major part of the Region's herons now nest in urban-industrial settings, notably New York Harbor and Pea Patch. The twenty-eighth New

York City Audubon Harbor Herons Survey tallied 1478 birds of seven species, down 26% from the last comprehensive count in 2010. Animal (largely raccoons) and human disturbance were thought responsible for the reduction or even abandonment of some island colonies; another possible factor is competition with cormorants for nest sites (EC). A total of 2102 individual herons of eight species were counted entering and leaving Pea Patch at dusk 26 Jun (CB), slightly above recent years but far below the 12,000 of 1993.

Great Egret continues to expand northward. In addition to the Motor Island colony on the upper Niagara River, established in 1995 (78 birds 21 Jun; WW), a colony at Tonawanda W.M.A., *Niagara*, discovered last year, totaled 82 birds 18 Jul (WW). Great Egrets declined slightly to 425 nests in New York Harbor (EC) but remained the second commonest species. An above-average 390 were at Pea Patch 26 Jul (CB). An aerial survey in late May counted 1853 ad. Great Egrets in 27 colonies in New Jersey (CD). Snowy Egrets declined slightly in New York Harbor to 209 nests (EC), but a count of 107 at Pea Patch 26 Jun was average. The May survey found 1051 ads. in 25 colonies in New Jersey (CD). A Little Blue Heron at Montezuma 22-23 Jul (Jim Tarolli, DW et al.) was the only report n. of New York Harbor. The harbor survey found only five nests compared to 16 in 2011 (EC). New Jersey hosted 81 Little Blue Herons in 10 colonies according to the aerial survey (CD), and an above-average 310 were at Pea Patch 26 Jun (CB). Tricolored Herons are in trouble. None appeared at Pea Patch (CB), and only one nested in New York Harbor (EC). A total of 53 were censused in New Jersey (CD). A straggler reached El Dorado Shores, Ellisburg Twp., *Jefferson*, NY 1 Jun (ph Tony Shrimpton). The last known Cattle Egret colony thrives at Pea Patch: 575 were counted 31 Jul, far above the average 443 (CB). A few persisting around Cape May suggested another colony nearby. Black-crowned Night-Herons comprised over a third of New York Harbor herons, as usual, but their 645 nests were 27% below 2010 (EC). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron colony of 11 nests on Brigantine Island, *Atlantic*, NJ (Diane Allison) demonstrated this species' acceptance of urban settings. The Redfern Houses colony in Far Rockaway, *Queens*, NYC, now 10 years old, rebounded to a record 40 nests after hawk predation in 2010 (EC). The New Jersey aerial survey found 42 ads. 22 May (CD). Only one was at Pea Patch 26 Jun (CB).



Very rare in midsummer in New Jersey, this Franklin's Gull visited Spruce Run Reservoir, Hunterdon County 28 June (here) and again 7 July 2013. *Photograph by Frank Sencher, Jr.*

The only White Ibis reported was an ad. at Secaucus, *Hudson*, NJ 16 Jun (Mike Batard). The northernmost Glossy Ibis was at Montezuma 1 Jun (Brent Bomkamp), remaining from May. The aerial survey counted 1291 in 11 colonies in New Jersey (CD). They slipped again in New York Harbor to 152, 48% below 2010, while they increased at Pea Patch to 326, the most since 2005 though still well below ten years ago.

Black Vultures are settling in along Lake Ontario. Two or 3 seem permanent in the Niagara River gorge at Lewiston (WW, William Price), and singles reappeared at Hogan Point 14 Jun (DT) and at Perinton 7 Jul (Dominick Sherony), both in *Monroe*, NY. No Mississippi Kite breeding attempt was detected, despite a propitious 17-Year Cicada hatch. An unprecedented assemblage of mostly (if not all) second-year birds at Belleplain S. F., *Cape May*, NJ 8-17 Jun (Henry D'Alessandro, m.ob.) peaked at 17 birds 13 Jun (TR). Other New Jersey sightings included 5 at Cape May 15 Jun (TR) and singles in *Morris* (Rick Radis) and *Essex* (Alex Bernzweig), none after mid-Jun. Single imms. ventured into s. New York, at Saugerties, *Ulster* 8-11 Jun (Peter Schoenberger et al.), at Staten Island 6-24 Jun (Anthony Ciancimino, m.ob.), and at two *Putnam* locations, Cold Spring 2 & 11 Jun (CR et al.) and Fahnestock 25 Jun (CR). Swallow-tailed Kites were scarce. One descended the Hudson River past Stateline Lookout, Palisades Parkway, *Bergen*, NJ 15 Jun (ph Steven Sachs). Another overflew Kingston, *Ulster*, NY 16 Jun (Arlene Oley). One was at Cape May 29 Jun (Deb Poilion).

Active Bald Eagle nests in New Jersey grew again to 121, fledging 175 young, although 19-20 nests failed (KC). Delaware produced a record 105 young Bald Eagles. New York Bald Eagle data were unavailable, following budget cuts at N.Y.S.D.E.C. A late flight of 211 Broad-winged Hawks at Derby Hill 1 Jun (BP, Tom Carrolan), with 35 Bald Eagles and 12 Red-tailed Hawks, appears to be an annual phenomenon for imms. of these species there.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A King Rail was an exhilarating find at Great Vly Swamp, *Ulster*, NY 3 & 9 Jun (ph. JH, AG). Another was seen or heard at Brig sporadically between 5 Jun (Mike Pasquarello) and late Jul (Tiffany Kersten). Spreading beyond Montezuma, their initial New York breeding site, Sandhill Cranes produced young at two new locations: Oak Orchard W.M.A., *Genesee* (Celeste Morien) and Lakeview W.M.A., Ellisberg Twp., *Jefferson* (JBo). Breeding was suspected elsewhere in *Jefferson* and at Watts Flats W.M.A., *Chautauqua* (*fide* MM). Individuals wandered widely in upstate New York and reached New Jersey at Woolwich Twp., *Gloucester* 28 Jun (Josh Provo) and Lawrence, *Mercer* 11 Jul (Mary DeLia). The biggest New Jersey count was 3 in Lafayette Twp., *Sussex* 13 Jun (Alan Boyd).

Southbound shorebird migration was in full swing by mid-Jul. Jamaica Bay held 12 species 11 Jul, about 6000 individuals 18 Jul, and 17 species 21 Jul (AB). The first big push came later at Montezuma, with 750 shorebirds of 13 species on 21 Jul (KR).

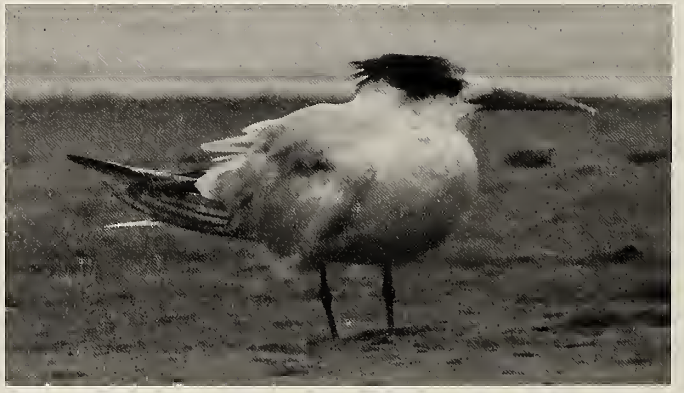
Delaware's remnant six Piping Plover pairs at Henlopen fledged 7 chicks. New Jersey had 108 pairs, down 11% from 2012. Predation reduced their productivity to 0.85, far below sustainability (TP). A Piping Plover from the endangered Great Lakes population, banded at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, MI, visited Strathmere 18 Jul (TR); another at Avalon, *Cape May*, NJ 27 Jul had been banded in New Brunswick (TR).

American Oystercatchers now breed to the head of Long Island Sound at Rye, *Westchester* (TWB). More American Avocets than usual strayed northward during their post-breeding trek from the interior to their fall assembly area in Delaware: 2-3, with some turnover, were around Dunkirk, where they are almost annual, 9–26 Jul (Gale VerHague, AG et al.). Also above average were singles at Flushing Meadow, *Queens* 21 Jul (Karlo Mirth) and 2-3 different birds off and on at Jamaica Bay 8-27 Jul (AB, KF, Keith Michael et al.). One arrived at Brig exceptionally early 18 Jun (Tiffany Kersten).

A Willet chick on Hen Island, Rye, *Westchester*, NY 13 Jun (AF) confirmed long-anticipated breeding at the head of Long Island Sound. Western Willets on the Great Lakes included one at Cattaraugus Creek, *Erie*, NY 14 Jul (PY) and 2 at the Buffalo waterfront 31 Jul (JP). Upland Sandpipers still breed in New Jersey at Lakehurst (6 on 12 Jun, Linda Mack, SB). Their New York redoubt remains *St. Lawrence*, with four or five pairs at Fort Drum plus some at four other sites (JBo). A few were present in *Erie*, *Oneida*, *Orange*, *Montgomery*, and *Wyoming*. Young were observed at Seneca Falls, *Seneca* and at Fairfield, *Herkimer* (Larry Hall, Elizabeth Frascatore).

High water made inland lakes unsuitable for shorebirds, but flooded fields substituted well, and storms downed some notable shorebirds inland. The 27-28 Jul storm grounded a Whimbrel and a Ruddy Turnstone at Morningside Park, *Sullivan*, NY 28 Jul for third and first county records, respectively. The turnstone had been banded on Delaware Bay 22 May 2011 (LV, JH). The same weather put down 4 Ruddy Turnstones at Montezuma (JMcG) and another, with multiple other waders, in a *Madison*, NY field (BP). It also brought 6 Sanderlings and a rare Red Knot to Myers Point, Cayuga Lake (KR). The only previous *Tompkins*, NY Red Knot record was by Allan R. Phillips in 1935. A remarkable 250 Whimbrels assembled at flood tide at Stone Harbor Point, *Cape May* 22 Jul (TR). A few Marbled Godwits summered at Brig; 3 at Dunkirk 14 Jul (PY) made the first Niagara summer record since 1998.

The season's premier shorebird was a **Red-necked Stint** at Cupsogue 30 Jun–4 Jul (ph. AB, ph KF, m.ob.); the dozen or so Regional records concentrate in Jul–early Aug when plumage is still bright. A hybrid *Calidris*, possibly a White-rumped Sandpiper x Dunlin, was studied at Cupsogue 3-10 Jul (ph. AB, ph. JMcG, ph. DR, m.ob.). The only Curlew Sandpiper graced Strathmere 5 Jun (ph. Deborah Rivel). A white Ruff at Brig 22 Jun (ph. Sam Rabin Ben Schweinhart) and a Reeve at Bombay Hook 30 Jun (BGP) were early postbreeders. More typically timed were a rufous Ruff at Jamaica Bay 19-21 Jul (ph. AB, Isaac Grant) and a different one 27 Jul (Jim Shlickenrieder, AB, SF); Jamaica Bay had 4 different Ruffs recorded in 2012. A southbound Wilson's Phalarope was noteworthy inland at Montezuma 21 Jul (Drew Weber, DW, Jim Tarolli, KR), but they were scarce coastally. A few Red-necked Phalaropes were still northbound in early Jun, but one 20-28 Jun at Westhampton Beach, *Suffolk*, NY (Eileen Schwinn, Mike Higgiston, m.ob.) was unseasonable.



New York's first Elegant Tern spent 3-7 (here 3) July 2013 at Cupsoque County Park, Suffolk County. New Jersey recorded one Elegant in September 2012, and Atlantic records of this species are increasing. *Photograph by Andrew Baksh.*

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER

A Pomarine Jaeger on Lake Erie off Buffalo (ph. Stephen Sliwinski) made a first Jul record for the Niagara Frontier. Another came ashore at Nickerson Beach, *Nassau*, NY 11 Jun (BF). A Parasitic Jaeger was unprecedented inland at Carlton Hill 20 Jul (ph. JP), following a storm. Another at Buffalo Harbor 30 Jul (JP) made only the third Niagara Frontier record for Jul. Long-tailed Jaegers were unusual from the Long Island shore at Amagansett 8 Jun (AW), at Robert Moses 13 Jun (SM); and Mecox 13 Jul in the fog (†NB).

A Laughing Gull reached Elmira, *Chemung*, NY 5 Jun (Bill Ostrander). The May census found 36,996 ads. in 124 colonies in New Jersey (CD). A **Franklin's Gull** in fading breeding plumage was unseasonable at Spruce Run Reservoir, *Hunterdon*, NJ 28 Jun (Michael Rehman, ph FS) and again 7 Jul (Alan Mart). A few Little Gulls continue to summer around Fort Niagara S.P., but one on the Mohawk River at Cohoes Flats, *Albany/Saratoga*, NY 20 Jul (ph. John Hershey) was unprecedented.

Five Gull-billed Terns summered at their n. limit in Hempstead Twp., *Suffolk*, NY (JZ). The New Jersey census found 13 ads. in seven colonies (CD). The Delaware maximum was 3 at Ted Harvey W.M.A., *Kent* 30 Jun (FR). The Region's only Caspian Tern colony at Little Galloo slipped slightly to 1848 nests (Adam Bleau, N.Y.D.E.C.). An **Elegant Tern** closely studied at Cupsogue and nearby Tiana Beach 3-7 Jul (ph. AB, m.ob.) would be New York's first, following New Jersey's first in Sep 2012. This Pacific species has wandered to Texas, Florida, Virginia, w. Europe (especially France, where it has paired with Sandwich Terns), and Argentina. Individual post-breeding Sandwich Terns ranged as usual n. to Cupsogue 22 Jun (GB) through 27 Jul (PJL). Great Gull Island hosted 1500 pairs of Roseate Terns alongside 9500 Common pairs (Joe Di Costanzo); we know of no other Roseate colony in the Region. The recently discovered midsummer visits by Arctic Terns to the Long Island s. shore escalated. A historic maximum was 7 in all plumages, including ads., at Cupsogue 15 Jun (AB, TWB, GB, Doug Futuyma), the latest 17 Jul (SF)

In New Jersey, 1259 Least Terns were censused, about par, but predation left only 211 fledges (TP). Five pairs nested at Henlopen but fledged no chicks (MBa). New York's Black Skimmers remain concentrated in two mega-colonies in *Nassau*. Nickerson Beach was 700-strong 26 Jul (BF, JZ); Breezy Point's 368 individuals produced only 30-40 chicks (Steve Sinkevich, FWS). Predation limited New Jersey's 1993 breeding skimmers to only 117 chicks (TP). Most of these were at Seaview Marina, Longport, *Atlantic* (TP). Strathmere held another big colony (TR). Skimmers gathered at Prime Hook (303 on 27 Jul, Derek Stoner), but only one chick was documented (MBa).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Mourning Doves at Bloomingdale Bog, *Essex* 13-15 Jun reached new altitudes in the Adirondacks (JC). Christopher Tessaglia-Hymes recorded 13 nocturnal Black-billed Cuckoo calls over Etna, *Tompkins*, NY 5-6 Jun, followed by 21 calls from 18 birds 16 Jun, far above 2012 levels. Such movements have been historically linked to cicada hatches. Common Nighthawks bred again at Ocean Terminal, Bayonne, *Hudson*, NJ; 2 young were photographed 12 Jul (MBr). Urban breeding may persist at Jamestown, *Chautauqua*, NY (Twan Leenders) and perhaps Buffalo, but most reported displays were in rural settings like Lakehurst (Steve Mattan) and Wharton S. F., *Burlington*, NJ (Sandra Keller). Seven Chuck-will's-widows called at Watch Hill, Fire Island, *Suffolk*, NY 16 Jun (MS, DR), and a pair guarded young at Blue Point Beach, *Suffolk* 22 Jun (ph. DR). Yunick banded 137 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and caught 28 repeats at Schroon Lake, *Essex*, NY, actually fewer than last year (RPY).

Red-headed Woodpeckers, a New York species of special concern, improved locally, though numbers remain far below 1970s levels. Breeding was confirmed in *Albany*, *Chautauqua*, *Jefferson*, *Monroe*, *Oneida*, and *Seneca*, and singles occurred across the lowlands of cen. and w. New York. Hotspots were Hamlin Beach (three pairs; AG) and Fort Drum (10 pairs, three with two broods; JBo). In New Jersey, Sparta Mountain Preserve (Peter Grannis, m.ob.) had the first nest in *Sussex* for many years. Breeding was confirmed in *Burlington* and *Cape May*, and birds visited *Cumberland*, *Hunterdon*, *Mercer*, *Morris*, *Ocean*, and *Somerset*. In *Sussex*, DE, multiples were present at Assawoman W.A. (Robert Klarquist); at Abbott's Mill Nature Center, near Milford (Jason Beale); and at Redden S.F. (Taj Schottland, Alan Kneidel). The maximum was 7 at Great Cypress Swamp near Selbyville 8 Jun (CB et al.).

In their twentieth year of breeding in New York, Merlins nested at a half-dozen sites outside the Adirondacks and approached the Pennsylvania border on Chautauqua Lake at Lakewood (Tom Simmons), the Chautauqua Institution (Ann Beebe), and possibly at Allegany S.P., *Cattaraugus* (*fide* MM). A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was photographed at the East Hampton airport, *Suffolk* 25 Jun (Terry Sullivan), about the tenth New York record, typically coastal. Most previous records are in fall. The passage of 328 Blue Jays at Derby Hill on 1 Jun (BP) illustrated the curious phenomenon of early summer Blue Jay movement, after local breeding dates, noted previously in this column. Fish Crow expansion continues along the Great Lakes; the first summer records at Niagara Falls included a video/audio (Brian Morse). Common Ravens continued to recolonize the coast. They nested again at Hampton Bays, *Suffolk*, NY (Hugh McGuinness) and at Coop City in the Bronx. Ravens also bred at Delaware's doorstep in se. Pennsylvania (Al Guarente).

Another **Brown-headed Nuthatch** found its way across the Delaware estuary to Cape May 4 Jun (SG, Josh Nemeth), to establish New Jersey's third record. Sedge Wrens added a breeding area at Hogan Point, *Monroe* (Greg Lawrence et al.) to the half-dozen known sites in n. New York. A Veery sang in boreal habitat at Bigelow Rd., *Clinton*, NY 17 Jun (JC), another species moving upslope. Twenty Bicknell's Thrushes on Whiteface Mountain, *Essex*, NY 13 Jun (Menachem Goldstein) constituted the highest count, but 15 on Plateau Mountain, *Greene*, NY in the Catskills 3 & 5 Jun made a subpar tally (Steven Chorvas).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The first southbound Yellow Warblers (as well as Bobolinks) called over Cape May following a cold front in the night of 15-16 Jul (TR). Fall migration was well underway 31 Jul, with 53 Yellow Warblers in dawn flight at Higbee Beach W.M.A., *Cape May*, NJ, along with a few American Redstarts and both waterthrushes (SG). Blue-winged Warblers keep increasing in the St. Lawrence valley, *Jefferson*, NY; an Adirondack record in *Essex* 14 Jun (Brian McAllister) was notable. Golden-winged Warblers still inhabit powerline cuts in sw. New York and nw. New Jersey. Five were at Sterling Forest S.P., *Orange*, NY 4 Jun, including a pair carrying food (Carole Hughes). As the winged warblers shift northward, the hybrids follow. At Fort Drum, Blue-winged and Golden-winged each account for 30-40% of all male winged warblers encountered; hybrids make up the remainder (JBo). Elsewhere in New York, Brewster's Warblers were at Braddock Bay 1 Jun (banded), Tonawanda, *Erie*, 14 Jun (WW), Hastings, *Oswego*, 8 Jun (BP), and Fahnestock 15 Jun (Kyle Bardwell), and in nw. New Jersey around the Delaware Water Gap, *Warren* (Pete Bacinski, MO'B et al.). Lawrence's Warbler records, besides one at Kakiat County Park, *Rockland*, NY (Mike Kravatz), were well n. in *Oswego* (JBr) and *Wyoming*, NY (Tom Kerr). Vanished from much of New York, northerly Yellow-breasted Chats were welcome at Carlton Hill 12 Jun+ (Doug Beattie, m.ob.) and Camillus Unique Area, *Onondaga* 7 Jul+ (Drew Weber, BP, JBr).

Clay-colored Sparrows were observed at nine locations across nw. New York, including a remarkable 24 singing males at Fort Drum 9 Jul (JBo). A male at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, Danby, *Tompkins*, NY seemed mated with a Field Sparrow (JMcG et al.). A Field Sparrow was far up-mountain at Bloomingdale Bog, *Essex*, NY 13-14 Jun (JC). A N.Y.S.D.E.C. program aided nearly vanished Henslow's Sparrows in *Jefferson*. Enrolled farmers managed three fields, one of which hosted 10-12 males (JBo). Fort Drum held about 6 singing males (JBo). A colony at Jamestown Airport, *Chautauqua*, NY grew to 3-7 by 12 Jul (Kirk Vanstrom, Bob Sundell, James Berry, WW), constituting the first Niagara Frontier record since 2006.

Northern Cardinals are filling in breeding areas in the Adirondacks (JC). A pair of Blue Grosbeaks carried nesting material on Staten Island 8 Jun (AB), where there is only one previous nesting record; the northernmost report was at Rye, *Westchester*, NY 5 Jun (TWB). Dickcissels were present at four New Jersey locations and at six in Delaware but went unreported in New York. A juv. Rusty Blackbird being fed at Wanakena, *St. Lawrence*, NY 12 Jun (Eileen Wheeler) was noteworthy: hardly any were reported from the Adirondacks.

A **Pine Grosbeak** at Cedar River Flow, *Hamilton*, NY 17 Jul (Gary Lee) was a most unexpected leftover from the winter finch flight. A few Red Crossbills lingered as far s. as New Jersey, one at Belleplain S.F., *Cape May* 8 Jun (SG, Mike Crew), and 6 at the Rosary Shrine, *Union* 8 Jun (Lauren Franco). The last one in Delaware visited a feeder in Clayton 5 Jun (Tom Brown). A White-winged Crossbill at Fort Drum 5 Jul (JBo) was the only report. Pine Siskins raised young near Sheds, *Madison*, NY (Linda Salter); scattered stragglers remained s. to Cape May (Karen and Brian Johnson, SG). After an old-time Evening Grosbeak winter in upstate New York, a few lingered in *Ontario*, *Oneida*, *Herkimer*, and *Schenectady*, and a fledgling was rescued 10 Jul near Sheds, *Madison* (Linda Salter). They were nearly absent from the Adirondacks, and Yunick banded no imms. at Jenny Lake, *Saratoga*, NY for only the fourth time since 1996 (RPY).

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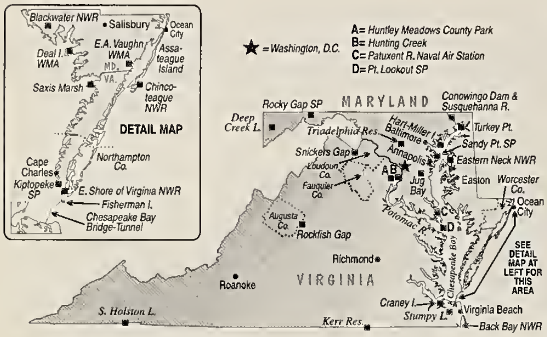
Middle Atlantic


Blackwater NWR
Salisbury
Ocean City
Deal I. WMA
E.A. Vaughn WMA
Assateague Island
MD.
VA.
Saxis Marsh
Chincoteague NWR
DETAIL MAP
Cape Charles
Northampton Co.
Kiptopeke SP
E. Shore of Virginia NWR
Fisherman I.
Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel
★ = Washington, D.C.
A= Huntley Meadows County Park
B= Hunting Creek
C= Patuxent R. Naval Air Station
D= Pt. Lookout SP
Rocky Gap SP
MARYLAND
Conowingo Dam & Susquehanna R.
Deep Creek L.
Triadelphia Res.
Hart-Miller I.
Baltimore
Turkey Pt.
Sandy Pt. SP
Snickers Gap
Annapolis
Eastern Neck NWR
Loudoun Co.
Fauquier Co.
A B
Jug Bay
Easton
Worcester Co.
Ocean City
C
Potomac R.
D
Augusta Co.
Rockfish Gap
Chesapeake Bay
SEE DETAIL MAP AT LEFT FOR THIS AREA
Richmond
Roanoke
VIRGINIA
Craney I.
Stumpy L.
Virginia Beach
Back Bay NWR
S. Holston L.
Kerr Res.

Mark T. Adams
Arun Bose
Robert Ostrowski

The 2013 breeding season featured above-average June heat across most of the Region, especially on portions of the Coastal Plain. June was also very wet, with near-record precipitation across the Region that included rainfall from Tropical Storm *Andrea* as it skirted the coast 7 June. Though July precipitation returned to near-normal levels in Maryland, Virginia experienced another month of unusually wet weather, particularly in the southwestern part of the state. July temperatures were overall above normal, but with a west-to-east gradient from near normal in the western Mountains & Valleys to much above normal on the Coastal Plain.

This breeding season's highlights included Zino's/Fea's Petrel, White-tailed Tropicbird, Magnificent Frigatebird, Long-billed Curlew, Ruff, Reeve, Arctic Tern, and White-crowned Pigeon. In addition to our many individual contributors, we thank Adam D'Onofrio, Dan Perkuchin, Jo Solem, and Bill Williams for their assistance in compiling and interpreting this season's records.

Abbreviations: Back Bay (Back Bay N.W.R., Virginia Beach); B.B.S. (Breeding Bird Survey); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, *Northampton*); C.C.B. (Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary/Virginia Commonwealth University); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., *Accomack*); Craney (Craney Island, Portsmouth); D.C. (District of Columbia); Dismal (Dismal Swamp N.W.R., Chesapeake/Suffolk); E.S.V.N.W.R. (Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., *Northampton*); False Cape (False Cape S.P., Virginia Beach); Grandview (Grandview Nature Preserve, Hampton); Hog (Hog Island W.M.A., *Surry*); H.R.B.T. (Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (Hampton/Norfolk).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

A **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** was a welcome find at a farm just sw. of Winchester, *Frederick*, VA 16-17 Jul (J&BJL, WL). The farm owners related that the duck had been present since about 9 Jul. The Snow Goose reported at Chinc. in late May remained through the breeding season (m.ob.). A Trumpeter/Tundra Swan eluded definitive identification during its brief stay at Jug Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, *Anne Arundel*, MD 20-23 Jun (DM, m.ob.). A Northern Shoveler pair at Craney 13 Jun (RB et al.) raised hopes of a breeding attempt, but the pair was not seen thereafter. A Green-winged Teal at Swoope, *Augusta*, VA 2 Jun (AL) made just a second county summer record, the first having occurred 5 Jun 2001. Other lingering waterfowl included a male Canvasback at Craney through 3 Jun (RB et al.); a male Redhead from spring at Grandview Nature Preserve, Hampton, VA through 4 Jun (ph. BT et al.); and a male Redhead at Rocky Gap S.P., *Allegany*, MD through 25 Jul (ML, m.ob.). A new Coastal Plain summer season peak of 200 Black Scoters was recorded off Gargatha Landing, *Accomack*, VA 11 Jul (MY); a loner was off Virginia Beach, VA 15 Jun (NF), and 4-5 frequented Grandview Nature Preserve, Hampton through 11 Jul (MS, BW, DY). A rare summer White-winged Scoter was at Wise Point, *Northampton*, VA 2-18 Jul (AL, TJ, JG, ZP). A female Hooded Merganser was an unexpected find at Norfolk, VA 19 Jul (RLAk). Summering Ruddy Ducks included one at Newport News Park, Newport News, VA 15 Jun (m.ob.); 10 at Craney 20 Jun (RB et al.), of which 7 persisted through the season (RB et al.); and a single at Diascund Reservoir, *James City*, VA 4 Jul (HB).

Thirteen Northern Bobwhites made an exceptional count for this declining species on the Newville B.B.S., *Sussex*, VA 9 Jun (NF). A Red-throated Loon was on Bundick Creek, *Accomack* 9 Jun (SB); another was at Chinc. 19 Jun and 4 Jul (MY). A Common Loon discovered inland at Newport News Park, Newport News was enjoyed through 14 Jul (ph. MLo, m.ob.). A Horned Grebe in breeding plumage visited Captain's Cove, Chincoteague, *Accomack* 12 Jun (CM).

Pelagic finds included 3 Cory's Shearwaters off the Virginia coast 21 Jun (TJ) and 14 Audubon's Shearwaters e. of Virginia Beach 31 Jul (TJ). A Great Shearwater was e. of *Accomack* 4 Jun (LMor). Onshore Wilson's Storm-Petrels sightings included 3 from the C.B.B.T. 8 Jun (MO) and 2 from Virginia Beach 17 Jun (AL). Seabird surveys conducted aboard the N.O.A.A. ship *Gordon Gunter* produced some exceptional records in Maryland pelagic waters, *Worcester*, MD 28-31 Jul (TJ), including **15 Herald Petrels** (a count to rival any in North American waters), a distant **Zino's/Fea's Petrel**, 28 Black-capped Petrels, 148 Cory's Shearwaters, 7 Great Shearwaters, a Manx Shearwater, 166 Audubon's Shearwaters, 10 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, a White-faced Storm-Petrel, 6 Leach's Storm-Petrels, and 46 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels. Before this survey, Maryland had records for only one Herald Petrel and 7 Black-capped Petrels; the Zino's/Fea's Petrel will be a state first, if accepted by the state records committee. Twenty Leach's and 4 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were about 150 km off the Virginia capes 21 Jun (ph. TJ). An additional 5 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels and a **White-tailed Tropicbird** were 240 km e. of Virginia Beach 31 Jul (ph. TJ); Virginia has just three previous records of the tropicbird.

Brown Pelicans bred on Wreck Island, *Northampton* and in *Accomack* at Quinby Inlet and on the n. Chesapeake Bay Cheeseman islands complex. Large unfledged young were present in the Wreck Island colony through mid-Oct (*fide* RBt). The power line transmission towers adjacent the James River Bridge, Newport News/*Isle of Wight*, VA again proved attractive for breeding Double-crested Cormorants: 68 nests were on the structures 14 Jun (NF, EE). A colony estimated at 2500 Double-crested Cormorant pairs was on Smith Island, *Accomack* (*fide* C.C.B.). A male Anhinga was perched at Harwood's Mill Reservoir, *York*, VA among the Great Blue Heron rookery 5 Jun (DY). This location provided Virginia's first documented nesting of the species, though no nesting activity was observed this season.

Maryland's second **Magnificent Frigatebird** briefly visited Assateague Island, *Worcester* 12 Jun (BO, m.ob.), circling just long enough for photographs. Typically a rare transient or post-breeding visitor, a Snowy Egret at Bear Creek Lake S.P., *Cumberland* 17 Jun (WE et al.) made just the second Jun record for the Virginia Piedmont. Very rare on the Piedmont, a Tricolored Heron at Pennyfield Lock, *Montgomery*, MD 28

This White-tailed Tropicbird, the fourth for Virginia, was found during a N.O.A.A. seabird survey far off Virginia Beach on 31 July 2013. *Photograph by Tom Johnson.*

Furnishing only the second verified Maryland record, this Magnificent Frigatebird found by Brooks Onley soared over Assateague Island, Worcester County 12 June 2013. *Photograph by Jenna Krebs.*

Jul+ (SHu, m.ob.) made only the fourth county record since 1996. Primarily a rare spring and fall transient in the Mountains & Valley region of Virginia, a Cattle Egret at Swoope, *Augusta* 11 Jun (MGo) made just a third county summer record and the first since 8 Jun 1985. A White-faced Ibis was a nice find on Basket Switch Rd., *Worcester* 17 Jun (MBa). A Glossy Ibis x White-faced Ibis hybrid was a surprise at Deal Island W.M.A., *Somerset* 3 Jun (ML), making the first Maryland record away from *Worcester* and the second in the state this year. A White-faced Ibis at Chinc. 4 Jun (MY) marked the fifth consecutive spring/summer (and 11 of the past 15 years) this species has been recorded on the Virginia Coastal Plain.

Single Mississippi Kites were at Croom, *Prince George's*, MD 8 Jun (ML) and at Rumsey Road Nature Trail, *Howard*, MD 20 Jun (PWe et al.). As many as 7 Mississippi Kites were in a residential neighborhood in Short Pump, *Henrico*, VA 5-9 Jun (AB, RLAk). The birds, aged as mostly second-year birds with one or 2 near-ads., had been in the area during the previous week (*fide* SHa). Single Northern Harriers were at Messick, Poquoson, VA 7 Jul (DY) and at Craney 31 Jul (RB et al.). Rare in the middle of Jun, a female Northern Harrier was hunting at Chino Farms, *Queen Anne's*, MD 15 Jun (MG). Early Merlins included singles at Kenilworth Park, D.C. 26 Jul (ADr) and at Triadelphia Reservoir, *Howard* 27 Jul (MR et al.).

The ongoing C.C.B. Peregrine Falcon nest monitoring program found 19 active nests in 19 occupied territories on the Virginia Coastal Plain; 42 chicks from those nests survived to banding age (LM).

RAILS THROUGH BLACK SKIMMER

A male Clapper Rail mated with a female King Rail in a brackish marsh at Truitts Landing, *Worcester* 23 Jun (ph. RO). There are records of hybrid offspring where these two species' ranges intersect, but direct evidence of copulation is very rare. American Coots are rare summer residents on the Coastal Plain, so singles at Chinc. 10 Jul (JB, CM) and Virginia Beach 17 Jul (HH) were intriguing. An American Coot summered at Schoolhouse Pond, *Prince George's*, MD 18-28 Jun (FS).

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries 2013 Plover Survey located 53 Wilson's Plovers (24 pairs, 5 unpaired singles) and 443 Piping Plovers (209 pairs, 25 unpaired singles) (RBt). The Wilson's Plover breeding activity was restricted to three n. *Accomack* barrier islands: Assawoman, Metompkin, and Cedar. These same three islands also accounted for 61% (127 pairs, 18 singles) of the survey's Piping Plovers. Additional Piping Plover concentrations were on Assateague Island, *Accomack* (36 pairs, 3 singles) and Smith Island, *Northampton* (23 pairs).

For a second consecutive summer, an American Oystercatcher pair successfully fledged 2 offspring on the H.R.B.T. (RB et al.). The Black-necked Stilt count at Craney peaked at 38 birds on 13 Jun, with 10 unpaired birds and 14 pairs, 8 of which were in some stage of nesting (RB et al.). Later field work confirmed 11 breeding pairs. Two of these pairs had 4 chicks each 18 Jun (RB et al.). Two fledged Black-necked Stilts young plus 12 chicks were observed 16 Jul (RB et al.). Up to 6 Black-necked Stilts were at Chinc. 1-6 Jul (MSl, SM, MBo). Unusual at these Maryland locations, a lone Black-necked Stilt was at North Beach, *Calvert* 1 Jun (KC, m.ob.), and 4 were at Truitts Landing, *Worcester* 25 Jun (SH). At least one American Avocet was at Chinc. through 27 Jul (ph. ABr). Avocet numbers at Craney hosted at least 2 American Avocets 2 Jul+, with a peak count of 25 on 31 Jul (RB et al.). An American Avocet, rare inland, briefly visited Hog 20 Jul (ph. ABr); another was a surprising find on a small beach at Lake Anna S.P., *Spotsylvania*, VA 27 Jul (DF). In Maryland, 2 American Avocets were at Sandy Point S.P., *Anne Arundel* (*fide* DHa); a single was at Swan Creek, *Anne Arundel* 12-13 Jul (TC, m.ob.), where this species has been seen for three consecutive summers; 2 more were over the Potomac River, *Prince George's*, MD 11 Jul (ML).

Up to 9 Western Willets were at Chinc. 7-28 Jun (AL, RBr, ZP, MY); as many as 10 were near the C.B.B.T.'s n. overlook, *Northampton* 8-13 Jun (MO, AL); such summering birds all appear to be second-year birds. Some 146 Western Willets were tallied at Chinc. 15 Jul (AL), a date when post-breeding migrants have arrived. A Spotted Sandpiper was at a construction site in Greenbelt, *Prince George's*, MD 21 Jun (TO), but no breeding evidence was found. Two Upland Sandpipers were at Norfolk International Airport, Norfolk 20 Jul (ESB); the species was often observed here in the early 1970s during migration, but post-9/11 regulations prevent study of airport grounds with a spotting scope. At least 2 Upland Sandpipers were in a recently disc-harrowed field near Remington, *Fauquier*, VA 26 Jul (TMD). Though the species has been annual recently on the Coastal Plain, the 2 **Long-billed Curlews** found on the Chinc. North Wash Flats 10 Jul (JB, CM) made a rare summer find.

A Marbled Godwit was a surprise at Swan Creek, *Anne Arundel* 28 Jul+ (EC, BH, m.ob.). Rare by date and location were the 1-2 Marbled Godwits at Craney 10-16 Jul (RB, DY et al.) and the single at Grandview 11 Jul (DY, MS, BW). The 25 Stilt Sandpipers at Hog 27 Jul (AD, JBl) made an unusually high count. A male **Ruff** foraged with yellowlegs and Glossy Ibis along the Wildlife Loop opposite Black Duck Marsh at Chinc. 27-28 Jun (ph. J&JG, *fide* TMD; AL, ZP). A **Reeve** was carefully identified at Chinc. 30 Jun (MAB, GH). A Wilson's Phalarope was off the Mosquito Creek Bridge, *Accomack* 6 Jul (MSl); another was at Chinc. 18 Jul (GA, TFe). Two male and 2 female Wilson's Phalaropes were at Craney 2 Jul (RLAk et al.), with 2 remaining through 31 Jul (BW et al.). An imm. Pomarine Jaeger was 18 km e. of Assateague Island, *Worcester* 20 Jun (TJ). A Bonaparte's Gull was an unexpected find off Back Bay 5 Jun (DH, KM), as was another at Wise Point, *Northampton* 8 Jun (MO).

The dense concentration of nesting birds on the H.R.B.T. included 1892 Laughing Gull pairs, 43 Herring Gull pairs, and six Great Black-backed Gull pairs (RB et al.). The season's highest Lesser Black-backed Gull counts were the 101 at Back Bay/False Cape 25 Jun (RLAk, CS) and 64 at Chinc. 17 Jul (JB, CM). Though expected on the outer coast in Jul, a Lesser Black-backed Gull near the Bay at Romancoke, *Queen Anne's* (MSc) made an uncommon sight. Thirty-nine Gull-billed Tern pairs nested at the H.R.B.T., now the state's largest concentration. Maryland's only Gull-billed Tern report came from Skimmer Island, *Worcester* 24 Jun (MH et al.). Researchers first noted Royal Terns breeding on the H.R.B.T. in 2006 (two pairs), a first for the Bay's w. shore (RB et al.). Since then, this species' nesting at the site has grown exponentially, reaching a high of 5188 pairs this summer. The H.R.B.T. Royal Tern colony also hosted 23 Sandwich Tern pairs, where they have bred for four consecutive years. The weekly H.R.B.T. waterbird surveys tallied 1158 Common Tern pairs there by mid-Jun (RB et al.).

An **Arctic Tern** at Chinc. 26 Jul (RLAk) made just the second Jul record for Virginia. Least Terns occupied three breeding sites w. of the Bay, including 563 ads. among four colonies at Craney 13 Jun (RB et al.), a peak count of 292 ads. at Grandview 27 Jun (MS), and 89 pairs at Lynnhaven Mall, Virginia Beach (RBt). Rare near D.C., a Least Tern visited an inland pond in Greenbelt, *Prince George's*, MD 4-22 Jul (TO). The H.R.B.T. hosted 215 Black Skimmer pairs (RB et al.). It is rare that colonial nesting waterbirds are reported from Tangier Island, *Accomack*. This summer a mixed-species colony with 17 Common Tern nests, 16 Royal Tern nests, and 56 Black Skimmer nests occupied the e. side of the island's s. spit (*fide* RBt).

PIGEONS THROUGH FINCHES

Almost unrecorded as a vagrant even on the fringes of its Caribbean range, a **White-crowned Pigeon**, Virginia's first, apparently rode Tropical Storm *Andrea* to Chinc., where it was nicely documented 8 Jun (ph. DHal, GKn, BS, *fide* JB). A Cockatiel on the C.B.B.T. 8 Jul (ph. AL) provided a bit of mid-summer whimsy; there is one other state record of a free-flying Cockatiel. With the exception of 2008 and 2009, breeding Common Nighthawks have been documented at Craney since 2006. The absence of heavy equipment operations there this season may have contributed to an impressive reproductive effort for the species. Table 1 provides a chronicle of the 2013 breeding activity observations follows (RB et al.). The species has become very rare as a breeder in the Coastal Plain in recent decades.

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker population at the Nature Conservancy Piney Grove Preserve, *Sussex* had a productive 2013 breeding season, as 20 birds successfully fledged from nine breeding pairs. This is the third consecutive year the population has produced at least 20 fledglings, following yields of 25 and 26 birds in 2011 and 2012, respectively. The successful 2013 breeders included a 13-year-old male that has remained at his natal location and has had breeding status since 2005. The current Red-cockaded Woodpecker population includes 51 ads. plus the 20 new fledglings, with 10 males and 10 females (*fide* MW).

One imm. and 2 ad. Loggerhead Shrikes were welcome finds in *Russell*, VA 2 Jun (ph. TMD). A lone Loggerhead Shrike was in *Frederick* 13 Jul (J&BJL). Cliff Swallows only breed locally on Maryland's eastern shore, so the discovery of a colony at a newly constructed bridge in *Caroline*, MD 11 Jun+ (LR, m.ob.) was a welcome find. Very rare this far w. in Maryland, a single Brown-headed Nuthatch continued from the spring at La Plata, *Charles*, MD until 14 Jun (m.ob.). Eight Golden-crowned Kinglets at Elliott Knob, *Augusta* 29 Jun (AL, AC, PW, ACli) included fledged begging young. The last documented breeding record in *Augusta* was 1 Jul 2005. Cedar Waxwings, rare Coastal Plain summer residents, were encountered at several sites: 2 were along the Great Dismal Swamp Canal Trail in Chesapeake, VA 8 & 15 Jun (NF); 4 were at the South Quay Sandhills N.A.P., Suffolk, VA 14 Jun (NF); and 2 were at the Dismal headquarters 18 Jun (NF). A nest-building pair at Newport News Park, Newport News 2 Jun (SS et al.) had nestlings 25 Jun (Mike Lowry). Unfortunately, the nest appeared abandoned 27 Jun (JF, DS).

Table 1. Common Nighthawk Breeding at Craney, June–July 2013.

Date	No.	Breeding evidence
3 Jun	3 pairs	one female apparently incubating/brooding
13 Jun	one bird	one adult on a 2-egg nest
20 Jun	3 pairs	two 2-egg nests and a pair with 2 feathered young
2 Jul	10 birds	includes 2 feathered unfledged young
10 Jul	12 birds	4 incubating ads. (three 2-egg nests and one 1-egg nest), 2 roosting males, 4 fledged young (2 sets of 2) and 2 feathered unfledged young
16 Jul	10 birds	9 ads. (one female on a 2-egg nest) plus one fledged young
25 Jul	3 birds	one female with 2 downy chicks
31 Jul	3 birds	same female as 25 Jul with 2 feathered chicks

A Yellow-rumped Warbler on Hart-Miller Island, *Baltimore*, MD 22 Jul (RFR) made just the third Jul record in Maryland away from *Garrett*. Though it has been a reliable, high-elevation breeding area for this species since at least 1996, the 15 Yellow-rumped Warblers with fledged young at Elliot's Knob, *Augusta* 30 Jun (AL et al.) made a good summer count. A Palm Warbler in Virginia Beach 26 Jul (DC) was five weeks ahead of the species' 1 Sep extreme early date and was a state first for the month. A local summer resident on the Coastal Plain, a Black-and-white Warbler was a nice find at Captain's Cove, *Accomack* 24 Jul (JB, CM). A count of 10 Black-and-white Warblers on the Newville B.B.S., *Prince George*, VA was noteworthy (NF). An American Redstart at Toano, *James City* 25 Jul may have been a rare local breeder (SP). The labor-intensive Northwest River, Chesapeake Prothonotary Warbler Project, part of the larger Virginia Prothonotary Project, completed its fifth consecutive year: 91% of the 101 nest boxes had breeding activity from which 291 nestlings were banded, a 76% increase over the 165 ringed in 2012 (SD et al.). Single Worm-eating Warblers were reported from two separate Great Dismal Swamp trails: one along the Canal Trail, Chesapeake 8 Jun; another off the Jericho Ditch Trail, Suffolk 28 Jun (NF). A Swainson's Warbler, rare on the Coastal Plain away from the Great Dismal Swamp, was at the crossing of the Meherrin River and Low Ground Rd., *Southampton*, VA 23 Jun and 28 Jul (NF, EE, PRW, TMD). Single Swainson's Warblers have been irregularly sighted at this location in past years. A very late migrant Mourning Warbler was at Point Lookout S.P., *St. Mary's*, MD 8 Jun (ML). A singing Canada Warbler was late at Patapsco Valley S.P., *Howard* 6 Jun (RBe, TH). Other late warbler records include single Chestnut-sided Warblers at Patapsco Valley S.P. 1 Jun (JH, MK) and Susquehanna S.P., *Harford* 4 Jun (TC, RJ); single Blackpoll Warblers at Montgomery Run, *Howard* 9 Jun (NM) and the National Cathedral, D.C. 12 Jun (SL); and a Black-throated Blue Warbler at a residence in *Harford* 11 Jun (MA).

A Lark Sparrow at Chinc. 6 Jun (JB, CM, LN) established the Coastal Plain's first Jun record. The Henslow's Sparrow on Jennings Chapel Rd., *Howard* continued from the spring until 15 Jun (TF, GK, m.ob.). A White-throated Sparrow at Craney 18 Jun (AM et al., ph. IC) eclipsed that species' previous Coastal Plain 12 Jun extreme late date by six days. There were five reports of late White-throated Sparrows in Maryland and D.C.: the latest was in *Harford* 11 Jun (JE). Another late White-throated was at the James River N.W.R., *Prince George*, VA 14 Jun (AB). A male Painted Bunting was at Glen Dale, *Prince George's*, MD 7 Jul+ (LW, m.ob.). The bunting remained into Aug, and sometimes aggressively defended a territory, but did not appear to be breeding. Five Boat-tailed Grackles were at Ragged Island W.M.A., *Isle of Wight*, VA 14 Jun and 1 Jul (NF).

Single Red Crossbills, both 2 Jun, were at New Germany S.P., *Garrett* and at Finzel Swamp, *Allegany*, MD (BH et al.). The latter was recorded and identified as a Type 3. The only White-winged Crossbill of the season was near Quiet Waters Park, *Anne Arundel* 16 Jun (RL). Lingering Pine Siskins were reported form around the Region, including singles at a residence in Perryman, *Harford* 10 Jun (JE); another at a *Buchanan*, VA feeder 15 Jun (ph. R&LM); a brief feeder visitor in w. *Albemarle*, VA 13 Jul (MC); and a *Pittsylvania*, VA feeder 19 Jul (ph. VF, *fide* MF).

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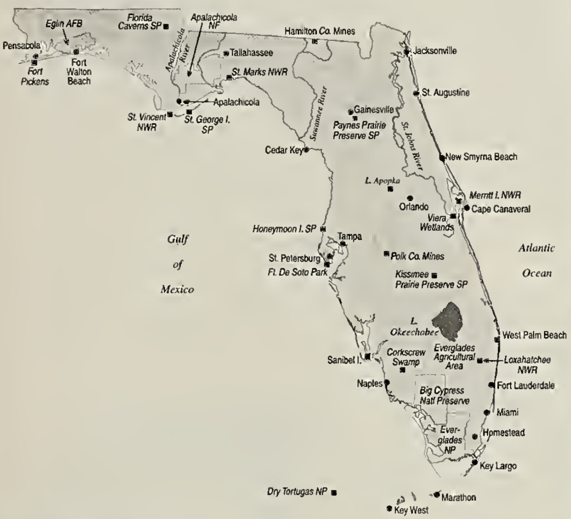
Eglin AFB
Florida Caverns SP
Apalachicola NF
Hamilton Co. Mines
Pensacola
Fort Pickens
Fort Walton Beach
Apalachicola River
Tallahassee
St. Marks NWR
Jacksonville
St. Augustine
Apalachicola
St. Vincent NWR
St. George I. SP
Gainesville
Paynes Prairie Preserve SP
Suwannee River
St. Johns River
Cedar Key
New Smyrna Beach
L. Apopka
Merritt I. NWR
Orlando
Cape Canaveral
Viera Wetlands
Honeymoon I. SP
Tampa
Gulf of Mexico
St. Petersburg
Ft. De Soto Park
Polk Co. Mines
Kissimee Prairie Preserve SP
Atlantic Ocean
L. Okeechobee
West Palm Beach
Sanibel I.
Corkscrew Swamp
Everglades Agricultural Area
Loxahatchee NWR
Naples
Big Cypress Nat'l Preserve
Fort Lauderdale
Miami
Everglades NP
Homestead
Key Largo
Dry Tortugas NP
Marathon
Key West

Bruce H. Anderson
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Weatherwise, summer 2013 was unremarkable. However, two tyrannids established remarkable records for the state. Florida's first Variegated Flycatcher appeared on the northeastern coast, where it remained long enough for diagnostic photographs to be obtained, and a few were lucky enough to observe the bird before it flew off to parts unknown. On the opposite coast, and farther south, a Tropical Kingbird that first appeared in spring remained to fledge four young in June, establishing the first breeding record of that species in Florida. Other tropical vagrants included a Fork-tailed Flycatcher, a Bahama Mockingbird, and several Shiny Cowbirds.

Abbreviations/definitions: big bend (the part of Florida from the Apalachicola River e. through *Jefferson*); Lake Apopka (Lake Apopka Restoration Area, *Orange* unless otherwise stated); N.E.R.R. (National Estuarine Research Reserve); panhandle (that part of Florida from the Apalachicola River w. through *Escambia*); record (only those reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence); report (any observation); S.T.A. (Stormwater Treatment Area); S.T.F. (Spray Treatment Fields).

WATERFOWL TO HAWKS

Waterfowl were well represented this summer. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue their expansion in n. Florida and the panhandle, with reports in *Santa Rosa* at Taminco Sanctuary 3-29 Jun (LK, BF) and 3 at Milton 7 Jul (Kyle Holley). A pair of Black-bellieds with 3 ducklings was found in the big bend at Tallahassee, *Leon* 13 Jul (Jim Cavanagh). Two Greater White-fronted Geese were late at Bystre Lake, *Hernando* 2 Jun (SMa et al.). A Eurasian Wigeon remained from spring through 15 Jun at Cape Coral, *Lee*, establishing a rare summer report (Jose Padilla). Two Redheads summered at Tierra Verde, *Pinellas* (RoS et al.) and a single was found at Cockroach Bay Preserve, *Hillsborough* 2 Jun (Richard Sullivan). Unusual in summer, a Greater Scaup paused 1 Jun at Seminole, *Pinellas* (RoS). Sea ducks were well represented, with a Common Eider at Clearwater Pass, *Pinellas* (Travis Young et al.) throughout the period, and all three scoter species made an appearance this summer. A male Surf Scoter was at Ponce de Leon Inlet, *Volusia* 12 Jun (MBr), and one at Alligator Point, *Franklin* spent the entire summer (JMu). The rarest of the scoters in Florida, White-winged Scoters were found on both coasts: in *Hillsborough* a male, visited Hillsborough Bay 1-15 Jun (CCa et al.), while a female summered at Palonis Park (Brenda Marcischak et al.), and another lingered at Huguenot Memorial Park, *Duval* 1-22 Jun (KDi). A female Black Scoter was late on the Halifax River, *Volusia* 10 Jun (MBr), and 21 summered at Huguenot Memorial Park (KDi). Reports of Long-tailed Duck are very rare in summer, so 2 were especially noteworthy: singles at Hillsborough Bay 1 Jun (CCa et al.) and Cape San Blas, *Gulf* 4 Jun (JMu). Hooded Mergansers breed sparingly in the n. peninsula, but one male was unusual far s. at Deltona, *Volusia* 17 Jun (MBr). Two Ruddy Ducks at Newnan's Lake, *Alachua* 25 Jun (RR, JoH) did not attempt to breed as the species has done occasionally.

A Common Loon was at Green Key, *Pasco* 28 Jun (KT), where a single Horned Grebe was found 24 Jun (KT). Another late Horned Grebe was recorded at Newnan's Lake 25 Jun (JoH). Very rare inland, an American Flamingo of unknown provenance was a one-day wonder near Florida's Turnpike and Glades Rd., *Palm Beach* 29 Jul (Larry & Diana Connor). A pelagic trip off Ponce de Leon Inlet recorded 2 Black-capped Petrels as well as a Great and 25 Cory's Shearwaters 21 Jul (MBr et al.). Other Cory's included 6 off Fort Clinch, *Nassau* 2 Jun (MBr) and one 11 km off New Port Richey, *Pasco* 14 Jun (KT). A Great Shearwater was off Ponce de Leon Inlet 24 Jun along with 6 Audubon's Shearwaters, 38 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, and 4 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels (MBr et al.). Magnificent Frigatebirds strayed n. to *Brevard* at Cocoa Beach 30 Jun (Phyllis Mansfield) and Merritt Island N.W.R. 4 Jul (David Freeland). The only summer report of a Masked Booby away from Dry Tortugas N.P., *Monroe*, where the species regularly breeds, was a subad. found off Miami, *Miami-Dade* 14 Jul (RoT). Likewise, there was one report of a Brown Booby, also subad., that wandered n. to Fort De Soto Park, *Pinellas* 15 Jul+ (Toby Hart et al.). After at least two successful nesting seasons in the Region, it was not unexpected to have a report of a **Neotropic Cormorant** at Peaceful Waters Sanctuary, *Palm Beach* 8 Jun–3 Jul (Marcello Gomes). Two Double-crested Cormorants in the panhandle at Gulf Breeze 7 Jun (B. Duncan) were very rare summer visitors. Summering American White Pelicans were widespread from the cen. one-half of the state to the panhandle, with high numbers on 7 Jun of 113 at Lake Apopka (HR), 26 at Taminco Sanctuary 7 Jul (LK, BF), and 52 in *Escambia* at International Paper Wetlands 27 Jul (Jerry & Brenda Callaway). Becoming more regular inland, 4 Brown Pelicans summered at Spring Lake, Altamonte Springs, *Seminole* (Paul Hueber). Rarely encountered in summer in Florida, an American Bittern was found at Lake Apopka 14 Jun (HR). Rare at any time of year, especially in summer, single White-faced Ibis were found at Sanderson, *Baker* 2 Jun (BoR) and Brookridge S.T.F., *Hernando* 30 Jun–22 Jul (J&SMa, MG et al.). Roseate Spoonbills wandered widely n. of their breeding range, with 69 at Cedar Key, *Levy* 19 Jun (RR), 26 at Withlacoochee Trail, *Citrus/Levy* 6 Jul (Cathy Bandyk, Kim Bandyk), and 2 in the big bend at Panacea, *Wakulla* (Dana Bryan).

Large numbers of Ospreys were present at Lake Apopka: 144 were recorded there 14 Jun (HR). Significant numbers of Swallow-tailed Kites were found at several locations, with at least 30 spending the summer along Powerline Rd., *Hernando/Pasco* (Paul Trunk et al.), 38 at Wacissa, *Jefferson* 22 Jul (Brad Bergstrom, Marvin Smith), and 640 at Lake Apopka 23 Jun (HR). A lone White-tailed Kite was found at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P., *Okeechobee* 26 Jul (CBe), a stronghold for this Florida-endangered species. Snail Kites wandered outside of their regular breeding range in the cen. peninsula: singles were noted at Blue Lake, Lake Wales, *Polk* 2 Jun (Yvonne Tanner), Lake Apopka 5 Jun (HR), Orlando Wetlands Park, *Orange* 15 Jun (Karen Hamblett et al.), and Edward Medard Park, *Hillsborough* 6-8 Jul (Janet Paisley). Mississippi Kites were found s. and e. of their normal breeding range, with 2 birds frequenting Powerline Rd. 1 Jun–8 Jul (MG et al.), 2 at Ridge Manor West, *Hernando* 8-12 Jun (Lucille Lane), and one at Lake Apopka 12 Jun (HR). A Northern Harrier was found in *Okeechobee* off S.R. 724 on 26 Jul (CBe); the species is casual in Florida in summer, with breeding reported historically but never verified. Short-tailed Hawks appeared at the extremes of their regular Florida breeding range; a dark morph was at Dallas White Park, *Sarasota* 14 Jun (BPr et al.); a light morph was at Sanibel Island, *Lee* 6 Jul (Karl Werner); and a light morph was at Central Park, Ormond Beach, *Volusia* 20 Jun (MBr). Beyond the n. extreme of the Short-tailed's range in *Alachua* were two reports, with loners at Newnan's Lake 29-30 Jun (AZ, Mary Keglen) and Hague 28 Jul+ (RR, AZ).

RAILS THROUGH FALCONS

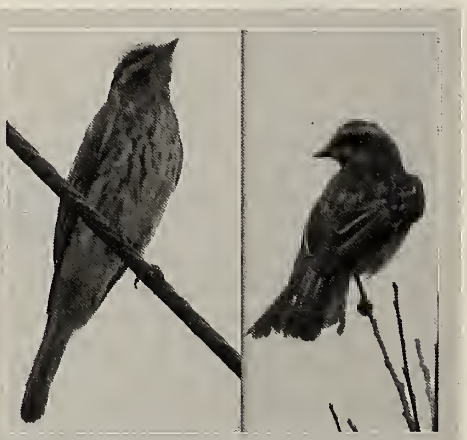
A single Black Rail vocalized at Three Lakes W.M.A., *Osceola* 18 Jul (Archer Larned, Cody Mezebish), a new inland location for the species. The newest addition to the list of established exotics in Florida, 2 **Purple Swamphens** were present at Harney Pond Canal Recreational Area, *Glades* 1-2 Jun (Eric Haney et al.). Two ad. and 2 young Sandhill Cranes 23 Jun–4 Jul (Thomas Rohlatsu) furnished the first breeding report for *Duval*. An American Oystercatcher, rare in the panhandle, was reported at Opal Beach, Gulf Islands N.S., *Escambia* 6 Jun (L&RAD). Uncommon to rare along Florida's Atlantic coast, 2 ad. oystercatchers, one incubating eggs, were present at Port Orange, *Volusia* 7 Jun (MBr). Occasionally, American Avocets occur in small numbers in summer, although breeding has never been verified in Florida, but 100+ summering at Seahorse Key, *Levy* was unusual (*fide* Dale Henderson). White-rumped Sandpipers continued to move through the state well into Jun, with 6 at Homestead, *Miami-Dade* 6 Jun (RoT), 4 at Honeymoon Island S.P., *Pinellas* 13 Jun (Peter Plage), and 3 at Port Orange 4-17 Jun (MBr). A rare southbound Buff-breasted Sandpiper arrived 26 Jul at Alligator Point (JMu).

Seldom found along Florida's coast away from Dry Tortugas N.P., except after storms, an ad. Brown Noddy was off Miami 29 Jun (RoT). Sooty Terns appeared at several Gulf Coast locations, including one at Three Rooker Island, *Pinellas* 1-16 Jun (Steve Crawford et al.); a juv. at Longboat Key, *Sarasota* 6 Jun (SW et al.); and a pair with a downy chick at the old St. George Island causeway, *Franklin* (JMu, MBr.), where at least one pair has been found breeding nearly annually for the past decade. On the Atlantic Coast, the 21 Jul pelagic trip off Ponce de Leon Inlet found 22 Sooty and 7 Bridled Terns (MBr et al.). A summer inland report of 26 Black Skimmers at Lake Apopka 9 Jun was unusual (HR).

Along the Gulf coast, where the species is local, 3 Mangrove Cuckoos were found at Bunche Beach, *Lee* 17 Jun (Cheryl Black). Florida-endangered Smooth-billed Anis continue to immigrate to Florida, presumably from the

SA The most exciting find of the summer season was undoubtedly the **Variegated Flycatcher** found by Diane Reed at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas N.E.R.R., *St. Johns* 5 Jun, providing Florida's first record for this tropical species. A photographic record purported to represent this species at Dry Tortugas in 1991 proved instead to document a **Piratic Flycatcher**. A one-day wonder, the Variegated was present for several hours, was photographed and seen by a number of observers, before it departed.

Other extraordinary flycatcher news included Florida's first breeding record of **Tropical Kingbird**. Over the past decade, the species has appeared, often several times annually at various locations throughout the state. At Sarasota, a female Tropical, first seen in spring 2013, built two nests in a small tree in a busy parking lot also frequented by several Gray Kingbirds. The bird laid four eggs in one nest, and the same number of young fledged 29 Jun (*fide* BPr). No male was seen in the immediate area until 23 Jun+ (SW et al.). The male and female Tropicals were never seen to interact, despite many hours of observation at the nest site. The young that fledged from the Tropical's nest were largely grayish dorsally and very pale yellow ventrally, leading some observers to believe that a Gray Kingbird had fathered the brood. The nestlings were banded, and blood samples were taken from two; the blood samples were submitted for DNA analysis, the results of which have not been made known.



The latest addition to the Florida state list, this Variegated Flycatcher was found at Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, St. Johns County on 5 June 2013. *Photographs by Diane Reed.*

West Indies: one was at Long Key S.P., *Monroe* 4 Jun (Jeff House) and another lingered 28 Jun–8 Jul at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P., Key West, *Monroe* (MHe). Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P. continued to provide an important sanctuary for Burrowing Owls, with 29 counted this summer (PM). A rare summer report of a Merlin at Lake Apopka 5 Jun (HR) was noteworthy.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WHYDAH

A **Tropical Kingbird** graced Rookery Bay N.E.R.R., *Collier* 4 Jun (Monica Higgins). Two Gray Kingbirds n. to Marsh Landing, *Duval* 2 Jun (James Wheat) were rare, as was an migrant Gray inland at Lake Apopka 9 Jun (HR). Unseasonable was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Okaloosa County S.T.A. 27 Jul (Malcolm Swan); southbound Scissor-taileds regularly arrive in the panhandle in Oct. Rare but annual, a Fork-tailed Flycatcher paused at Lake Apopka 17-22 Jul (HR et al.). Unusual reports of swallows included single late Tree Swallows at Newnans Lake 2 Jun (Lloyd Davis) and Lake Apopka 21 Jun, and a Cliff Swallow at the latter location 23 Jun (both HR).

American Robins, rare breeders in n. Florida, were reported nesting as evidenced by 3 birds, including a fledgling, at Hyde Grove, *Duval* 5 Jun (Carly Wainwright). Exceptional was a fledgling brought to a local rehabilitator in *Orange* 10 Jun (Lindy Williams, *fide* Alex Vinokur) for one of very few reports of American Robins breeding in the cen. peninsula. Single robins were at Ortega Farms, *Duval* 12 Jun (BoR); 1 far s. near Bradley Junction, *Polk* 14 Jun (Cole Fredricks et al.); and one at Gainesville 29 Jul (Geoff Parks). A single Bahama Mockingbird was a one-day wonder at Fort Zachary Taylor Historical S.P. 2 Jun (Dave Patton, MHe). A Yellow-breasted Chat was unexpectedly far s. at Three Lakes W.M.A. 14 Jul (Tim Towles). The only reports of Shiny Cowbird n. of s. Florida were of 2 at Lake Apopka 5 Jun (HR) and one at the Celery Fields, *Sarasota* 19 Jun (Claire Herzog). Two Orchard Orioles at the Villages, *Sumter* 16 Jun (James J. Dinsmore) were present where the species has been found breeding in recent years; the species breeds locally s. of the n. peninsula.

Lingering American Goldfinches included singles at Salt Springs, *Marion* 19-22 Jun (Angela Luzader) and Tallahassee 23 Jun (Barry Johnson). The panhandle has become a hotspot for certain exotic species, with breeding Scaly-breasted Munias now widely reported in Pensacola, *Escambia* and neighboring *Baldwin*, AL (*fide* L&RAD). In addition, single Pin-tailed Whydahs were recorded at Pensacola 5 Jun (James Brinson) and 24 Jul (Andrew Carr, Scott Rose).

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SPRING REPORT • Ontario

Hudson Bay
Winisk
James Bay
Moosonee
Kenora
Atikokan
Thunder Bay
Rainy River
Marathon
Wawa
Sault Ste. Marie
North Bay
Algonquin PP
Cornwall
Ottawa
Sudbury
L. Superior
Manitoulin I.
Parry Sound
Kingston
L. Ontario
L. Huron
Peterborough
Toronto
Presqu'ile PP
L. Michigan
Kettle Pt.
Hamilton
Niagara Falls
Sarnia
Saint Clair WA
Long Pt. Bird Observatory
Rondeau PP
Pt. Pelee NP
L. Erie

Alan Wormington

Weatherwise, just about everyone complained that it was an awful spring. Winter-like conditions persisted well into the period, especially in northern Ontario, where virtually all expected migrants arrived days, if not weeks, later than normal. A very brief spurt of mild weather on 9-10 March facilitated a few very early arrivals to northern Ontario, which included Killdeer and American Robin way north to southern James Bay. The bleak conditions in the north persisted into late April, when an advancing warm front brought in hordes of overdue migrants, both passerines and vast numbers of waterfowl. Lingering deep snow pushed many of these new migrants to roadsides or well-stocked feeders, where they were highly visible. But then in early May, yet another late snowstorm occurred across the north, when up to 40 cm fell at Thunder Bay 2-3 May. The result was an incredible number of passerines concentrated along plowed roadways and other bare spots at Thunder Bay (and elsewhere), involving thousands of juncos and many hundreds of other sparrows, including Fox and White-throated. At Rossport to the east on Lake Superior, two separate town residents each stated they had "about 1000" Dark-eyed Juncos visiting their birdfeeders during this snow event. At Thunder Cape on Lake Superior, Common Loons during the first 12 days of May were observed flying northward (inland) during the morning but flying back to Lake Superior during the afternoon; likely this was a result of all inland lakes still being frozen solid. Due to the very late spring, we expect a very late breeding season.

Exceptional rarities found during the period included Bewick's Swan, Northern Gannet, Neotropic Cormorant, White-faced Ibis, Swallow-tailed Kite (two), Black-necked Stilts,

Establishing the third record for Ontario for the subspecies, this adult, unbanded Bewick's Swan appeared at Ridgetown, Regional Municipality of Chatham-Kent on 15-16 (here 16) March 2013. *Photograph by Garry T. Sadler.*

The spring of 2013 saw an exceptional influx of Eared Grebes into northwestern Ontario, including this bright individual at Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay District on 22-25 (here 22) May 2013. *Photograph by Alan Wormington.*

Western Grebe is rare everywhere in Ontario, but this one on 9 May 2013 at Cochenour, Kenora District established the most northerly record ever for the province. *Photograph by David S. New.*

This Pied-billed Grebe at Moosonee, Cochrane District, Ontario on 28 April 2013 was one of few ever documented for southern James Bay. *Photograph by Nancy C. Littlejohn.*

White-rumped Whimbrel, Least Tern, Say's Phoebe (two), Ash-throated Flycatcher, nesting Fish Crows, Violet-green Swallow, Swainson's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Gray-headed Junco. What a spring!

Abbreviations: H.S.A. (Hamilton Study Area), K.R.B.A. (Kingston Region Birding Area), L.P.B.O. (Long Point Bird Observatory), O.B.A. (Ottawa Birding Area), Point Pelee (Point Pelee Birding Area, a standard C.B.C. circle centered n. of Point Pelee National Park). Ontario is divided into n. and s. regions along 47° N latitude. A place name in italics refers to a county, district or regional municipality.

SA Eurasian Wigeons are becoming more numerous in Ontario, or observers are getting more efficient at finding them. Either way, there was an explosion of sightings this spring, with at least **23 birds** found. The following occurrences pertain to males, and all were single birds unless otherwise stated: different birds at Point Pelee 14 Mar–8 Apr (RPC et al.) and 16-31 Mar (BAM et al.), Vinemount, *Hamilton* 18 Mar–2 Apr (JLi et al.), Port Royal, *Norfolk* 24 Mar (DS), Langton, *Norfolk* 26 Mar–15 Apr (RPS et al.), Jarvis, *Haldimand* 30 Mar (RAV), Townsend, *Haldimand* 30 Mar (JVJ), Rondeau P.P., *Chatham-Kent* 30-31 Mar (SRC, BAM et al.), Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* 8 Apr (SML, JM), Dyer's Bay, *Bruce* 20 Apr (ABV, MNV), 2 at Port Royal 20 Apr, with one 21 Apr (JJP, MRI et al.), Greenway, *Lambton* 23 Apr (KGDB, CLH), Stayner, *Simcoe* 27 Apr (MKP, GKP, DMP, LR), Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* 28 Apr (KRK et al.), Crescent Beach, *Niagara* 5 May (AMH), Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* 15 May (GAW), Bells Corners, *Ottawa* 19-27 May (HMY, JDN et al.), and Rock Point P.P., *Haldimand* 24 May (WWW).

At Cranberry Marsh, an unprecedented collection of Eurasian Wigeons gathered late in the season, starting with 2 males 17 May (OP), then 3 males 25-27 May (FAP, JHS, RPS, JMH et al.); finally a high count of 4 was obtained 25-26 May, when a female was detected with the 3 males (GCo et al.).

Perhaps indicative of what some of these birds are up to, a male Eurasian Wigeon x American Wigeon hybrid was at Puslinch Lake, *Wellington* 21 Apr (MDC, Bryan K. Wyatt).

WATERFOWL

Some exceptional counts of Greater White-fronted Goose at Hillman Marsh, *Essex* included 17 birds 13 Feb–9 Mar (RPC et al.) and 47 on 23 Mar (BAM, KJR), while other high counts in the s. included 11 at Sombra (Fawn Island), *Lambton* 26 Feb–3 Mar (MPJB et al.) and 9 at Sarnia, *Lambton* 17 Mar (EBM); an imm. at Kesagami Lake, *Cochrane* 20 Apr (JD) was a significant sighting for the Hudson Bay Lowlands. Greater Snow Goose numbers along the St. Lawrence River in e. Ontario (mostly e. of Lancaster) peaked at 50,000+ birds 26-29 Mar; a bit later and farther n., 100,000 were present in the Cobb's Creek floodplain e. of Bourget, *Prescott and Russell* 14 Apr (m.ob.). Large numbers remained later than usual, with 3000-4000 birds still present at Alfred, *Prescott and Russell*, into early Jun (*fide* BLM). Eight Greaters at Pickering, *Durham* 27 Mar (MDW) were unusual this far w. in s. Ontario. At least 55 Ross's Geese were found scattered across the south, on dates ranging from 1 Mar to 5 May; some counts of note included 15 at Shrewsbury, *Chatham-Kent* 28 Feb–3 Mar (SRC, ACC et al.), 7 at Strathroy, *Middlesex* 12-15 March (LG et al.), and 7 at Ridgetown, *Chatham-Kent* 23 Mar (GCP, ICP et al.), increasing to 9 there 24-29 Mar. A Ross's Goose at Port Rowan, *Norfolk* 24 May (RR et al.) was undoubtedly a record-late occurrence for s. Ontario. A Brant at Dunnville, *Haldimand* 13 Mar (JDV, BNC) was presumably an extremely early spring migrant rather than an unlikely wintering bird. In the south, some sample high counts of Cackling Goose included 14 at Petrolia, *Lambton* 23 Mar (SMJ), 9 at Frenchman's Bay, *Durham* 14 Mar (DBW), and 8 at Hillman Marsh 10-20 Mar (JDV et al.). Five Canada Geese at Kashechewan, *Kenora* 22 Mar (RAS, BN) were extremely early for James Bay. A rather bizarre sight was a compact flock of 15 Mute Swans at Terrace Bay, *Thunder Bay* 21 May (KGDB, MVAB, ADB); in recent years, there have been fewer records in the north. An unbanded ad. **Bewick's Swan** at Ridgetown was an exceptional find 15-16 Mar (JMB et al.); there are only two previous Ontario records (2 ads. at Chippawa, *Niagara* 6 Nov 1971; and one ad. at Dover Marshes, *Chatham-Kent* 31 Mar 1972). An arriving male Wood Duck was at Moosonee, *Cochrane* 24 Apr (JB).

The 490 Northern Shovelers at Hillman Marsh 12 Apr (AW) made a high count for Point Pelee. The 1125 Northern Pintails at Oshawa Second Marsh 5 Apr (TLH) established a record high count for the Greater Toronto Birding Area. A Eurasian Teal at Hillman Marsh 23 Mar (DJW) was the only report. The ad. male King Eider wintering at Port Weller, *Niagara* since 10 Dec (BRA, MBa et al.) was last reported 9 Mar; one at Point Pelee 30 Apr (JDV, DMB) was a rarity for w. Lake Erie. Across Lake Ontario, a total of 19 Harlequin Ducks were reported 3 Mar–21 May; 2 (a pair) at Wrigley's Lake, *Waterloo* 13 Apr (SCH) was exceptional for an inland location. Rare for the north, 3 Harlequin Ducks were at Thunder Bay 29 Apr (BJM et al.), one of which remained until 6 May. What is presumed to be the same male Barrow's Goldeneye appeared for the fourth straight spring at Lake Wolsey, *Manitoulin* 18 Mar–22 Apr (RCT, CTBe et al.); several in O.B.A. included 3 (2 males, 1 female) on the Rideau River (n. of Hwy 417) 26 Mar (VBL). A male Barrow's x Common Goldeneye hybrid was at Rice Lake, *Northumberland* 9 Apr (REF). Three Red-breasted Mergansers at Silver Islet, *Thunder Bay* 10 Mar (NGE, BJM, SBJP, JRB) were early for Lake Superior.

GREBES THROUGH IBISES

A Pied-billed Grebe at Moosonee 28 Apr (NCL) was one of only a few records for s. James Bay. The 119 Horned Grebes at Rondeau P.P. 7 May (BAM) was a high count for the late date. Some high counts of note for Red-necked Grebe at their respective sites included 1800 at Scarborough, *Toronto* 14 Apr (BF), 1011 flying w. at Thickson Point, *Durham* 21 Apr (RRP), and 240 at Chub Point, *Northumberland* 21 Apr (MJCB). Unprecedented numbers of Eared Grebes were found in the north, where the species is considered rare at best; all **14 birds** were found either on or w. of Lake Superior, including 4 at Dryden, *Kenora* 19 Apr–2 May (JWD, AMM et al.), one at Fort Frances, *Rainy River* 1-2 May, with a second bird on the last date (ERT et al.), 4 at Rainy River, *Rainy River* 5 May (DHE, MSD, Alan Williams), 2 at Thunder Bay 6-7 May, with one remaining through 9 May (NGE, JRB, SBJP), one at Emo, *Rainy River* 11 May (TME, CDE), and one at Thunder Bay 22-25 May (KGDB, MVAB, ADB et al.). Remarkably, there were fewer Eared Grebes reported in the south, with only 9 found 18 Apr–15 May (m.ob.). The wintering Western Grebe along the *Toronto* waterfront (Colonel Sam Smith Park to Sunnyside Park) since 3 Dec (HGC et al.) was last reported 11 May; other singles were at Cochenour, *Kenora* 9 May (DSN) and Thunder Bay 16 May (GTG, SG).

An ad. **Northern Gannet** at Presqu'ile P.P., *Northumberland* 1 May (FMH) was later seen at additional Lake Ontario sites during the following months through to Oct; the species is somewhat regular during fall migration in s. Ontario, but a summering bird is unprecedented. The fifth **Neotropic Cormorant** for Ontario was at Thickson Bay, *Durham* 5 May (GCo, DSK). Three Double-crested Cormorants at Lake Timiskaming (Mission Point), *Timiskaming* 8 Apr (JFr) were early migrants for the north. Scattered American White Pelicans in the south included 3 at Erieau, *Chatham-Kent* 20 Apr (JTB et al.); 16 at Providence Bay, *Manitoulin* 11 May (KDN); 2 at Holiday Beach C.A., *Essex* 12 May (m.ob.); and 4 at Hamilton Harbour/Coote's Paradise, *Hamilton* 13-17 May (RN et al.). A Great Egret at Bracebridge 22-23 Apr (MCG, DLG, RCG et al.) was a rarity for *Muskoka*. The only Snowy Egrets reported concerned one at Campbellcroft, *Northumberland* 18-29 Apr (BR et al.), and 2 (separate) singles flying southward off the Tip of Point Pelee 13 May (DMB, BRH). The only reports for Little Blue Heron were single ads. at Harwood Plains, *Ottawa* 18 Apr (BMD) and York Regional Forest (Bendor and Graves Tract), *York* 16 May (BBr). A Cattle Egret at Hurkett, *Thunder Bay* 1-2 May (EN et al.) was a rarity for the north. An ad. Black-crowned Night-Heron at Belle Vallée, *Timiskaming* 28 Apr (Jerry Wallace, Reg Brand) was exceptional that far north in the province. A first-year imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Lindsay, *Kawartha Lakes* 30 Apr–1 May (LMM, MM et al.) and an ad. at Whitby, *Durham* 11-30 May (JS) made the only reports. Glossy Ibis sightings were restricted to singles at Williamstown, *Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry* 11-17 May (JKB et al.), Amherst Island, *Lennox and Addington* 14 May (RKFE), and Angus, *Simcoe* 23-26 May (DES et al.). Quite exceptional for *Kenora* was a **White-faced Ibis** at Oxdrift 23 Apr–3 May, then nearby at Dryden 5-9 May (UEW et al.), a first confirmed record for n. Ontario; yet another *Plegadis* ibis in the north (but not identified to species) was at Fort Frances 1 May (ERT). The only prior *Plegadis* ibis for the north was at Gowganda, *Timiskaming* 18 Oct 2001, a bird that was not identified to species.

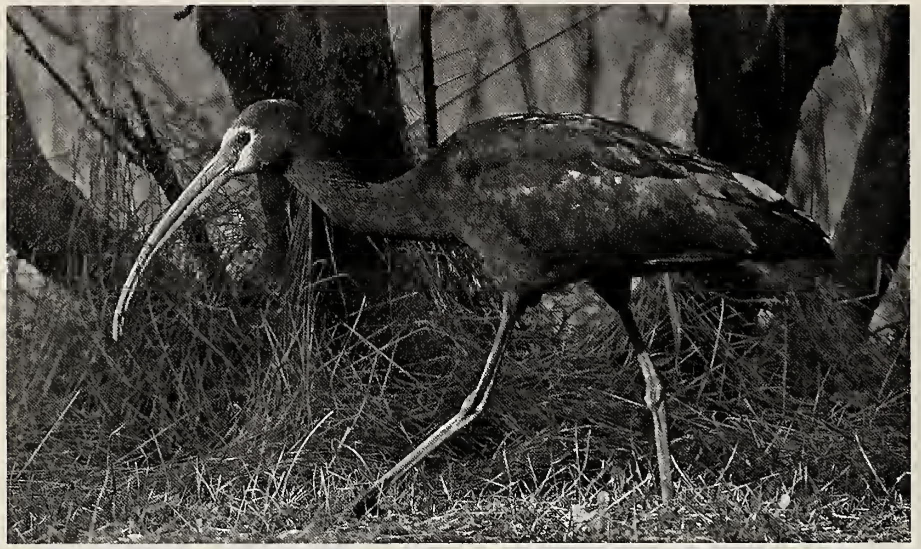
In a plumage not often seen in Ontario, this young Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Lindsay, City of Kawartha Lakes on 30 April (here) and 1 May 2013 was also farther north in the province than most recorded sightings. *Photograph by Maureen McEwen.*

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Continuing from the winter period, varying numbers of Black Vultures were reported from the lower Niagara River through at least 27 Apr, with a maximum count of 9 (m.ob.). Ontario has no breeding record for Black Vulture, but it seems probable that the species is now nesting at this location, though tangible evidence is lacking. Spring migrants detected were one at Milton Heights, *Halton* 10 Apr (GL), 4 at Grimsby, *Niagara* 23 Apr (MJM et al.), one at Kincardine, *Bruce* 4 May (JAT), and one at The Gully, *Northumberland* 18 May (TLH). An Osprey at Grimsby 13 Mar (SLH et al.) was record early for the H.S.A., and another at Grand Bend, *Lambton* 21 Mar (MPA) was also locally record early. A Swallow-tailed Kite at Pickering 22 Apr (AM, CB)

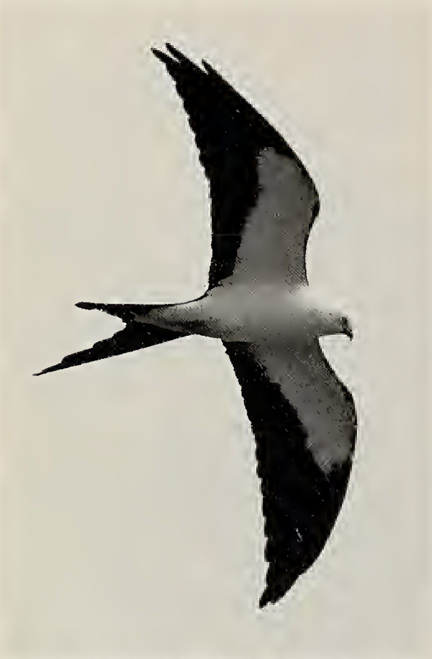
Standing amongst snowdrifts, this Cattle Egret at Hurkett, Thunder Bay District, Ontario on 1-2 (here 1) May 2013 provided a rare sighting for the north shore of Lake Superior. *Photograph by Norma J. Maurice.*

Found at Williamstown in Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry Counties, Ontario 11 May 2013, this Glossy Ibis was present through 17 (here 13) May. *Photograph by Brian L. Morin.*



This White-faced Ibis, with remnant snow in the foreground, established a first confirmed record of the species for northern Ontario when it appeared in Kenora District. The bird was initially present at Oxdrift 23 (here 28) April–3 May, then moved to nearby Dryden 5-9 May 2013. *Photograph by Carolle D. Eady.*

was undoubtedly the same bird seen about 30 minutes later and 17 km away at Scarborough (MH et al.). Yet another of the species was at Chatham, *Chatham-Kent* 29 Apr (JC et al.) and then nearby 2-3 May (CD); the following day, 4 May, it was followed by vehicle from Port Alma to Wheatley P.P., *Chatham-Kent*, and then to Point Pelee N.P. (MVAB, EPB et al.).



This Swallow-tailed Kite thrilled dozens of observers on 4 May 2013 as it soared overhead at the Point Pelee National Park Visitor Centre, Essex County, Ontario. Many were alerted in real time that the bird was on its way, having been originally intercepted some 38 kilometers away at Port Alma, Regional Municipality of Chatham-Kent, and then followed by vehicle to Point Pelee. *Photograph by Brandon R. Holden.*

Photgraphs from 29 Apr and 4 May show the same tail feathers missing on the bird. Single ad. Mississippi Kites were found 4 May at Point Pelee (JMB et al.) and Rondeau P.P. (SRC, BAM), the only reports for the period. Arriving migrants in the north 31 Mar were single Sharp-shinned Hawks at Kenora, *Kenora* (AGK) and New Liskeard, *Timiskaming* (BDM). A one-year-old Northern Goshawk was late at Point Pelee 30 Apr (JDV, DMB). A Yellow Rail at Long Point Tip, *Norfolk* 3 May (MJT) was a local rarity. The endangered King Rail went unreported in the province. An American Coot at Thunder Bay 23 Feb–24 Apr (AGK et al.) was an extremely early spring migrant for the north. The 18 Sandhill Cranes sw. of Navan, *Ottawa* 9 Apr (CAL, RAB), a high spring count for O.B.A., were probably birds that nest in the nearby Mer Bleue Bog and Alfred Bog.

Five Black-bellied Plovers seen from the Amherst Island ferry 17 Apr (MDR) were very early for the K.R.B.A. The 126 Semipalmated Plovers at Port Rowan Wetlands 25 May (RR) made an exceptional spring count for the south. Migrant Piping Plovers included singles at Point Pelee 12-13 May (RMM et al.), one back and forth between Presqu'ile P.P. and Darlington P.P., *Durham* 15 May–7 Jun (RDMc et al.), Toronto Islands, *Toronto* 17 May (NCM et al.), Kettle Point, *Lambton* 19-20 May (MPA et al.), Windermere Basin, *Hamilton* 24-25 May (RZD et al.), and Long Point proper 24 May–10 Jun (EP, APT et al.). A Killdeer at the Moose Factory landfill, *Cochrane* 10 Mar (JVT) was exceptionally early for s. James Bay, especially as no open water was present and a meter of snow remained on the ground! Three **Black-necked Stilts** arrived at Hillman Marsh 5 May, with 2 remaining 6-8 May (WGH et al.). Some high counts for American Avocet in the south included 17 at Hillman Marsh 22 Apr (DJW et al.), 16 at Hamilton (High Level Bridge), *Hamilton* 16 Apr (KMN), and 12 at Lynde Shores, *Durham* 16 Apr (JV); one at Harry's Corner 13 Apr (Muriel Sinclair) was both rare and early for *Simcoe*. Rare for the north, another avocet was at Fort Frances 26 Apr (JEV). A Greater Yellowlegs at Presqu'ile P.P. 12 Mar (REF) was locally a record-early arrival. Noteworthy Willet concentrations in the south included 66 at Nonquon, *Durham* 30 Apr (DSK et al.), 24 at Pelee Island, *Essex* 28 Apr (KGDB, LAK), 20 at Petawawa Point, *Renfrew* 30 Apr (KBr), and 19 at Hillman Marsh 28 Apr (DMB et al.); singles at Fort Frances 4 May (ERT) and Thunder Bay 5 May (LJS et al.), were rarities for the north. Peak numbers for Whimbrel at the official count at Etobicoke (Colonel Sam Smith Park), *Toronto* were 886 birds 28 May (WER et al.). On 27 May in *Durham*, a **Eurasian Whimbrel** (presumably nominate *phaeopus*) was at Darlington P.P. (SRW, BFA) and later the same day presumably the same bird was at Thickson's Woods (BEH, JM). A Hudsonian Godwit at Coulson's Hill, *Simcoe* 21 Apr (BAW, NJS) was both early and rare for the area. An early Marbled Godwit at Fort Frances 28 Apr–2 May (MSD et al.) was in the center of town, feeding on a waterlogged residential lawn! One at Wawa 23-27 May (JDV et al.) was a rare occurrence for *Algoma*. Some high counts of the species were made in *Thunder Bay*, including 28 at Gravel River mouth 19 May, 13 at Squaw Bay (Pass Lake) 22 May, and 13 at Knudsens Corner 22 May (all AW). Two Red Knots at Thunder Bay 21 May (BJM) was a rare spring occurrence for *Thunder Bay*; the 20 at Reesor Pond, *York* 23 May (MF) was a good spring count in the south for this declining species. An early Least Sandpiper was at Hillman Marsh 14-30 Apr (JDV et al.). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Sarnia 17 Mar (EBM) was locally record early. A Purple Sandpiper at Niagara Falls, *Niagara* 23 Mar (MLJ, Peter R. BonEnfant) was a wintering bird and made the only report for the period. A Stilt Sandpiper at Crescent Beach 19 May (PAY, BWH) was the only report for the south. An early Ruff at Hillman Marsh 7 Apr (AW et al.) was the only report. Always rare in spring, Long-billed Dowitchers found were one at Grimston, *Bruce* 21 Apr (ABV, MNV), 3 at Peters Corners, *Hamilton* 29 Apr (BNC et al.), and 2 Hillman Marsh 26-30 Apr (RJC et al.), with a single there 10-13 May (DMB, BRH, JLH et al.). A Wilson's Snipe at Hillman Marsh 23 May (LJF) was a record-late spring migrant for Point Pelee. Record early for *Manitoulin* was a Wilson's Phalarope at Manitowaning 25

Three Black-necked Stilts arrived at Hillman Marsh, Essex County, Ontario on 5 May 2013 to provide Point Pelee with its second record ever of the species; two birds remained in the area 6-8 May. *Photograph by Jeremy M. Bensette.*

Apr (CTBe, RCT); another early Wilson's was found at Thickson Point 19 Apr (DSK).

GULLS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS

The 1600 Bonaparte's Gulls feeding on worms in flooded fields in sw. *Oxford* 22 Apr (JMH, MCH, DAM, LW) was an exceptional count for an inland site away from the Great Lakes. The only Black-headed Gulls found were an ad. at Niagara-on-the-Lake, *Niagara* 9 Apr (TLH) and a first-summer bird at Point Pelee 28-29 May (AW). An ad. Little Gull at Hurkett 23 May (AW) made only the second record for *Thunder Bay* (the first was at Thunder Cape 14 Oct 1999). Another ad. at Kelley Lake 26 May (CGB, JGL) was a rarity for *Sudbury*. Some high counts of Little Gull in the south included 92 at Turkey Point, *Norfolk* 31 Mar (RR), 90 at Niagara-on-the-Lake 9 Apr (TLH), and 53 at Oshawa Second Marsh 26 Apr (TLH). Laughing Gulls at Point Pelee included singles 29 Apr (LAF, ML), 6 May (BAM et al.), and 16 May (PSB et al.); other singles were at Port Ryerse, *Norfolk* 2 May (JLa) and Erieau 28 May (BAM et al.); birds at Long Point Tip were one 9 May, one 20 May, and 2 on 23 May (all APT et al.), with at least one still present 3 Jun. A Franklin's Gull at Hillman Marsh 18 Mar (JMB) was record early for Point Pelee and perhaps Ontario as a whole; the only others found in the south were singles at Point Pelee 16-17 (STP, MS, JFo et al.) & 23 May (SER, GCa), possibly the same bird. A third-cycle California Gull was found at Long Point P.P., *Norfolk* 10 May (PDT). A Glaucous Gull and 7 Herring Gulls at Lake Timiskaming (Mission Point) 9 Mar (JFr) were early spring migrants. A very high count of 28 Iceland Gulls was made at Frenchman's Bay 27 Mar (DBW). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at Dryden 20 Apr (AMM) was a first record in n. Ontario for the area w. and n. of Lake Superior; in the south, most were found at Point Pelee, as usual, with maximum counts there of 10 birds 16 Mar (BAM, AW et al.) and 7 on 17 May (KAM, JI et al.). An ad. Great Black-backed Gull at Heron Bay 21 May (KGDB, MVAB, ADB) was a rarity for *Thunder Bay*, while a second-cycle bird at Moosonee 2 May (CJN) was an unusual occurrence there for spring. An ad. **Least Tern** at Long Point P.P. 14 May (DJL) was a local first and only the fifth for Ontario. A Black Tern at Amherst Island 21 Apr (BMD) was record early for the K.R.B.A.; 136 at the Nonquon sewage ponds 19 May (AGC) was a high count for spring. A concentration of Common Terns at the Tip of Point Pelee numbered 2200 on 13 May (JMT, JHS et al.); one at the Deschênes Rapids 13-16 Apr (GP et al.) was very early for the O.B.A.

The only reports of jaegers in the south were both at Long Point, a Pomarine Jaeger (Outer Bay) 21 Apr (SAM, RD) and an early Parasitic (Inner Bay) 29 Apr (SAM, DLL). The only reports of Eurasian Collared-Dove were at Point Pelee, with one at Hillman Marsh 10 May (BRH, DMB et al.) and another at the Tip 29 May (JMB). A White-winged Dove at Moosonee 3-9 May (CJN et al.) made the first record for the Southern James Bay Checklist Area; curiously the first Ontario record was just a bit farther north on James Bay, involving a bird collected at Fort Albany on 17 Jun 1942. Another White-winged Dove was at the Long Point causeway 21 May (JSB, DS). A count of 74 Mourning Doves flying southward off the Tip of Point Pelee during two hours 1 May (AW et al.) indicated active migration. A total of 8 Northern Hawk Owls were found in w. *Rainy River* during the period of 1 Mar–25 Apr (MSD et al.). A Barred Owl at Toronto Islands 22-23 May (JWP et al.) was a very unusual occurrence for this location. During the previous winter, Great Gray Owls flooded into *Thunder Bay*, undoubtedly involving hundreds of individuals; numerous birds remained through late Apr and beyond. A banding project in Thunder Bay from late Jan through 24 Apr netted a total of 69 birds, and more than 60% of those were first-year imms. (BDR). In the south, Algonquin P.P. experienced the largest irruption on record, with 15+ birds tallied along the Hwy. 60 corridor on dates ranging from 1 Mar–1 May (*fide* RGT); the last occurrence was at the 28 km hwy. marker 1 May (CW). Also in the south, 6 were still present at scattered locations within the O.B.A. 10 Mar (m.ob.), with

SA It is well known that during spring migration, numbers of Arctic Tern routinely migrate overland to s. James Bay from unknown locations on the Atlantic coast. This is well documented in the short 1973 paper "A Possible Shortcut Spring Migration Route of the Arctic Tern to James Bay, Canada" by W. Earl Godfrey (*Canadian Field-Naturalist* 87: 51-52). This year, the flight was especially pronounced, undoubtedly enhanced by a weather system that was characterized by cold temperatures and strong, persistent northeasterly winds. In fact, the available Arctic Tern observations match perfectly the progression of this system as it tracked across cen. Ontario from west to east.

The most significant sightings were 2 Arctic Terns at Hurkett, *Thunder Bay* (AW) and one at Wawa, *Algoma* (JDV), both 23 May, which together represent the first-ever records for the Ontario side of Lake Superior. Five birds were then found at Kelley Lake, *Sudbury* 24 May, with 2 remaining 25-26 May (CGB, GB et al.), for a second local record. The most southerly record was a single bird at Etobicoke 27 May (ALA); on the same date, there was an exceptional concentration of 50+ birds at Bernard Lake, *Parry Sound* 27 May (SJO, DJ). The final observation for the period was at a location where the species is recorded most years—40 at Deschênes Rapids on the Ottawa River, *Ottawa* 30 May (BMD, TFMB et al.). This number was comprised of small flocks that were migrating upriver.

These two Arctic Terns (on right) at Hurkett, Thunder Bay District on 23 May 2013 established the first record for the Ontario side of Lake Superior. *Photograph by Alan Wormington.*

Sporting a plumage not often seen in North America, this first-summer Black-headed Gull was found at Wheatley Harbour, Essex County, Ontario on 28 May 2013. *Photograph by Alan Wormington.*

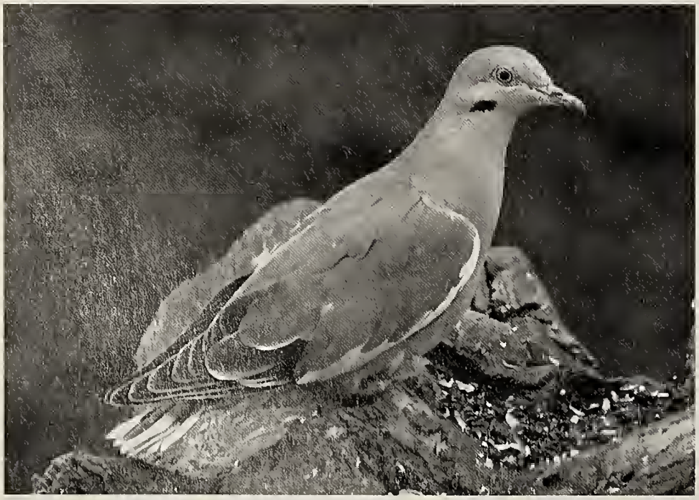
one late bird at Mer Bleue Bog, *Ottawa* 14 Apr (ME); additional late singles were at St. Joseph Island, *Algoma* 14 Apr (RDK) and Crane Lake Rd., *Bruce* 18 May (DS). The most southerly reports were singles at Georgina, *York* 7-9 Mar (MMP et al.), Wellers Bay, *Prince Edward* 22 Mar (NC), s. of Newtonville, *Durham* 26-27 Mar (*fide* GCo), and Wicklow Beach, *Northumberland* late Feb–7 Apr (m.ob.). A Boreal Owl in a residential backyard in Thunder Bay 14 Mar (AGH) was presumably a spring migrant. Single Chuck-will's-widows were found at Point Pelee 3 May (KGDB, ADB et al.) and 8 May (RPC, MHD, CGE et al.), Dorland, *Oxford* 4 May (JMH, MCH et al.), and Prince Edward Point, *Prince Edward* 18-20 May (MP, SM, TD, JBG et al.).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

An early Red-headed Woodpecker appeared at Rondeau P.P. 13 Apr (BAM). Concentrations of Red-bellied Woodpeckers are rarely reported, but 14 were tallied as they flew southward off the Tip of Point Pelee 30 Apr (AW et al.), and 26 birds (16 banded) were at Long Point Tip 1 May; at Long Point Tip, the total banded during the season was a remarkable 113 (L.P.B.O.). A Pileated Woodpecker flying southward over Hillman Marsh 7 May (MVAB) was only the third modern record for Point Pelee (previous occurrences in 1963 and 2003). Single Gyrfalcons in the south were at Providence Bay, *Manitoulin* 2 Mar (RCT), Galt Street, *Lennox and Addington* 11 Mar (KJH), Amherst Island 7 Apr (RKFE), and Navan 14 Apr (MG, MBo). A Peregrine Falcon 1 Mar (AW) was record early for Point Pelee, and another at Current River mouth, *Thunder Bay* 18 Mar (BJM) was a very early migrant for the north.

An Acadian Flycatcher at Toronto Islands 29 May (ALA) was a local rarity. Two early Willow Flycatchers were at Point Pelee 3 May (JDV, JBF, EKH). Single **Say's Phoebes** were found at Toronto Islands 20 Apr (NCM, JWP et al.) and at Mac's Bay, *Manitoulin* 5 May (CTBe, RCT) for a fourth local record. An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Long Point (Old Cut) 29-30 May (SAM et al.) was a second local record (both in spring) and ninth overall for Ontario. The 6 Western Kingbirds in the south were more than recent years, with singles at Rondeau P.P. 9 (M. Shurmer et al.) & 30 May (CAF et al.), near St. George, *Brant* 16 May (WFR), at Pelee Island 22 May (RDMa, PBM), at Galbraith, *Lanark* 25 May (BS), and at Point Pelee 29 May (AW). A group of 3 early Eastern Kingbirds was at Point Pelee 19-20 Apr (AW, JMT, RJC). Single Loggerhead Shrikes at Bury's Green Rd., *Kawartha Lakes* 16-23 Apr (DQB et al.), Point Pelee 4 (MBR et al.) & 8 May (ABB et al.), and Long Point Tip 19 May (KEG, DLL) were the only reports of spring migrants in the south; another migrant at Rossport, *Thunder Bay* 26 May (AW) was a rarity for the north. White-eyed Vireos n. of range were singles at Toronto, *Toronto* 17-28 Apr (DPR et al.), which was record early locally, Thickson's Woods 15 May (GCo), and Dyer's Bay 19 May (ABV, MNV, AMV, MDV). The 40 Philadelphia Vireos at Rondeau P.P. 25 May (SRC, BAM) was locally a record-high count. A very early Red-eyed Vireo was at Point Pelee 18 Apr (MBR).

A pair of **Fish Crows** was present in e. Burlington, *Halton* 28 Apr+ (CTBu et al.); a nest was later located 5 May+ (Mourad Jabra et al.), providing a first confirmed nesting record for both Ontario and Canada (although in 1999 it was suspected that a pair nested at Point Pelee N.P.). Unfortunately, the female was found dead 20 May, and the specimen was salvaged (KRS; *Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto); the bird had enlarged ova, but there were no collapsed follicles, indicating that no eggs had been laid (*fide* MKP). Other Fish Crows were one at Guelph, *Wellington* 2 Mar (JBF, EKH), one at Fort Erie, *Niagara* 2 Mar (ACD; a previously reported wintering bird), one at Niagara Falls 19 Mar (JVJ), one at Mississauga, *Peel* 21 Mar (DIP), one at Waterloo, *Waterloo* 27 Mar (KGDB et al.), 2 at Aldershot, *Halton* 15 Apr (RZD), one at Bronte, *Halton* 16 Apr, increasing to 2 birds 18-28 Apr (MWJ et al.), one at Prince Edward Point 2-7 May (RKFE et al.), and one at Rondeau P.P. 9 May (RVP, FAP et al.). Out-of-place Common Ravens in the extreme south were singles at Long Point (Hastings Drive) 14 Apr (JBF et al.), Crescent Beach 4 May (AMH), and Watford, *Lambton* 16 May (SMJ). The first arriving Horned Larks in *Timiskaming* were 4 at Earlton 13 Mar (SGen). A **Violet-green Swallow** at Britannia, *Ottawa* 25-26 Apr (Jake Walker et al.) established the



This White-winged Dove at Moosonee, Cochrane District, Ontario on 3-9 (here 4) May 2013 established a first record for the Southern James Bay Checklist Area. *Photograph by Christina J. Nielsen.*

A real stunner was the appearance of this Violet-green Swallow at Britannia, Ottawa Regional Municipality, Ontario 25-26 (here 25) April 2013, providing just the second record for the province. *Photograph by Bruce M. Di Labio.*

second Ontario record; the first was at Thunder Cape 28-29 Oct 1992 (*Ontario Birds* 11: 6-10). At Point Pelee, a Barn Swallow 29 Mar (AW) was a bit on the early side, while another at Bronte Harbour, *Halton* 1 Apr (MWJ) was very early for H.S.A.; exceptional for the early date, 370 were counted flying southward from the Tip of Point Pelee 19 Apr (AW, JMT, RJC). The wintering Tufted Titmouse at Orangeville, *Dufferin* since 20 Nov (RJB et al.) was last seen 14 Apr. The Bewick's Wren at Long Point Tip 25 Apr (RD et al.) was a first local record since 1997. The count of 15 Eastern Bluebirds arriving from Lake Erie at the Tip of Long Point 30 May (APT) demonstrates that the species migrates later in spring than is generally assumed. The wintering Townsend's Solitaire at Silver Harbour, *Thunder Bay* since early Feb (PS, RES et al.) was last seen 28 Mar, while the wintering bird at Kendal, *Durham* since 9 Jan (RWFP, MJCB, PARi et al.) was last seen 7 Mar; one at Shabaqua, *Thunder Bay* 22 May (MVAB, KGDB, ADB) was a very late spring migrant. Very early was a Veery at Port Hope, *Northumberland* 20 Apr (GMCD). An American Robin at Moose Factory 9 Mar (JVT) was a record-early spring migrant for s. James Bay. A wintering Varied Thrush at Camden East, *Lennox and Addington* since 26 Dec (CCl, WCl et al.) was last seen 30 Mar, while the one wintering at Sudbury, *Sudbury* since 19 Jan (TM et al.) was last seen 15 Apr; singles at 8th Line Oro, *Simcoe* 20 Feb–9 Apr (photos via critter-cam; *fide* Steve Gooch) and at Actinolite, *Hastings* 28 Feb–10 Mar (LB et al.) were likely wintering birds as well, but others at Massassauga Point C.A., *Prince Edward* 24-26 Mar (TMW et al.), Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* 15-23 Apr (TP), and Thunder Bay 2-4 May (BJF et al.) were clearly spring migrants. Single Gray Catbirds at Rondeau P.P. 20 Apr (JTB, SRC, BAM) and Point Pelee 20-21 Apr (SGet et al.) were both locally record early. Of several sightings of Northern Mockingbird in the north, single birds at Emo 9 May (CM, ERT) and Wawa 17 May (AW) were the most interesting.

Massive numbers of Bohemian Waxwings were scattered across s. Ontario during early spring; some late concentrations of note include 43 at Simcoe, *Norfolk* 7 Apr (EG, KG), 200 at Scarborough 11 Apr, with 50 still there 23 Apr (MAK), 150 at Brantford, *Brant* 12 Apr (WGL et al.), 200 at Dundas, *Hamilton* 13-14 Apr (TO et al.), 200 at Newmarket, *York* 15 Apr (RJF), 50 at Mississauga, *Peel* 20-21 Apr (BBl), 70 at Markham, *York* 25 Apr (DBW), and 30 at Prince Edward Point 25 Apr (MWPR, JPR). One at Sarnia 26 Apr (CD) and another at Mamainse Harbour, *Algoma* 20 May (KGDB, MVAB, ADB) were extremely late for their respective locations.

This migrant Loggerhead Shike on the north shore of Lake Superior at Rossport, Thunder Bay District, Ontario on 26 May 2013 was well north of the species' usual range. *Photograph by Alan Wormington.*

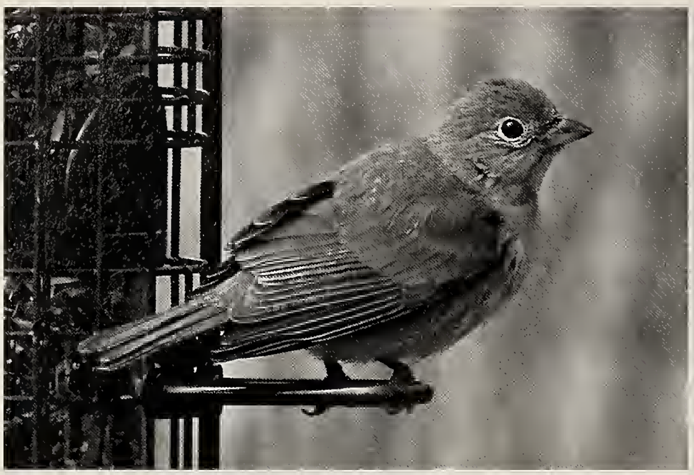
WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Single Worm-eating Warblers away from Lake Erie were n. of Cobourg, *Northumberland* 19 Apr (MBi), Leslie Street Spit 30 Apr (m.ob.), Prince Edward Point 6 May (SM) and 14 May (KBl, BAH), Guelph 15 May (RAV), and Dundas 16 May (Brian K. Wylie); one at Peterborough, *Peterborough* 22 Apr (MVAB, DAS, CAD, SD et al.) was a local first. A Blue-winged Warbler at Stony Swamp, *Ottawa* 5 May (KCH) was a local rarity. A Black-and-white Warbler at Dryden 21 Apr (WD) was exceptionally early for n. Ontario. A **Swainson's Warbler** caught and banded at the Tip of Long Point 2 May (DLL et al.) was a third local record and the earliest of 11 records for Ontario; all have been spring migrants. A male Hooded Warbler at Pine Bay, *Thunder Bay* 30 May (ZM) was one of few records for the north; a singing male at Sauble Falls P.P., *Bruce* 30 May (LJF) was also n. of range. An American Redstart at Casey Marsh, *Timiskaming* 8 May (SGen) was quite early for that far n. in the province. Single Kirtland's Warblers were at Point Pelee 15 (BNC, DMB et al.) & 18 May (BRH, EWH et al.); another was at Rondeau P.P. 16 May (WJC, EKS, BDS, KH). Quite exceptional was a male **Cerulean Warbler** at Selim, *Thunder Bay* 15 May (HGS), establishing a first record for n. Ontario. Record early for *Manitoulin* was a Yellow Warbler at Lucar Point 24 Apr (*fide* CTB). Single Audubon's Warblers were found at Beachville, *Oxford* 25 Apr (JMH), a first county record, and at Rondeau P.P. 9 May (PAW). Again a presumed breeding pair of Yellow-throated Warblers was present at Rondeau P.P., with the arrival of a single bird 18 Apr and both present 20 Apr (RBM et al.), and one gathering nesting material on 10 May (BAM, MKP, PAW); Ontario still lacks a confirmed breeding record of the species. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Port Glasgow, *Elgin* 20 Apr (DGZ) was the sixth spring record for Ontario, and twentieth overall. A Yellow-breasted Chat at Toronto Islands 16 May (WFS) made a rare spring record for *Toronto*.

In Ontario, Bewick's Wren continues to be recorded less frequently with each passing year. This individual was caught for banding at Long Point Tip, Norfolk County on 25 April 2013 and was the first local record since 1997. *Photograph by Janice J. Chard.*

A wintering Eastern Towhee at Thunder Bay since Jan was last seen 2 May (CCo et al.); another at Thunder Bay 21 Apr–1 May (RMD et al.) was a spring migrant. Very late American Tree Sparrows in *Thunder Bay* were singles at Marathon 21 May and Wolf River

This molting male Lark Bunting was a one-day visitor to Burke Settlement, Frontenac County, Ontario on 15 May 2013. *Photograph by Kurt J. Hennige.*

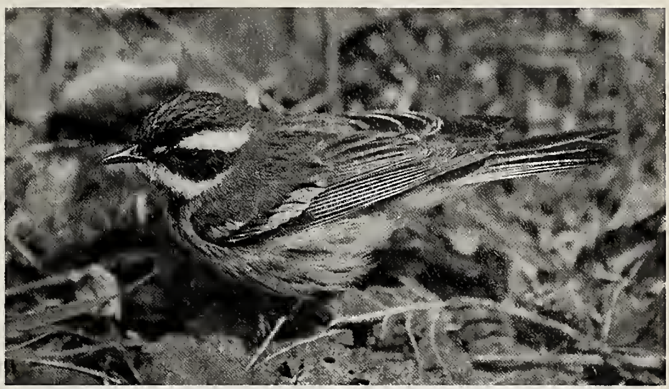


This year-old Painted Bunting (based on its brownish flight feathers) established the fourth record for Point Pelee when it appeared at Sturgeon Creek, Essex County, Ontario on 29-30 (here 30) April 2013. *Photograph by Alan Wormington.*

Rare and very early was this female Blue Grosbeak at Toronto, Ontario 20-30 (here 20) April 2013. *Photograph by D. Paul Reeves.*

mouth 25 May (both KGDB, MVAB, ADB); in *Nipissing*, one at North Bay 16 May (BT) was also very late, and another at Algonquin P.P. (Track and Tower Trail) 15 May (RB, AG) was locally record late. Single Field Sparrows at Pine Bay 2 May (ZM) and Marathon 21 May (ADB, KGDB, MVAB) were rarities for the north. A Vesper Sparrow at an urban feeder in Brantford 1-2 Mar (DRG) was undoubtedly a wintering bird. Lark Sparrows were scattered across the province, with singles at Erieau 24-26 Apr (JDV et al.), Point Pelee 3-7 (JFe et al.) & 31 May (RPC, AW, Peter R. Bondy), Pearl, *Thunder Bay* 14 May (AAE), Long Point (Old Cut) 22 May (KP, JP, KEG), Moosonee 22-26 May (EEH), and Thunder Cape 31 May (JMW et al.). A rarity anywhere in the province, single male Lark Buntings appeared at Burke Settlement, *Frontenac* 15 May (MAS et al.) and Pickle Lake, *Kenora* 28 May–1 Jun (TJM et al.). Single Henslow's Sparrows at Pelee Island 29 Apr (GCAG, SUO) and Point Pelee 30 Apr (JFe, JDV, DMB et al.) were the only reports of spring migrants. Rarely seen in the south during spring, single Nelson's Sparrows were found at Point Pelee 14 May (JBS, Mike Jaber, JWH et al.) and Long Point Tip 21 May (MJT et al.). The 42 Fox Sparrows in a residential yard at Bury's Green 20 Apr (JMP) made an exceptional count for an inland location; a late migrant was at Gros Cap, *Algoma* 17 May (DMB). The wintering Harris's Sparrow at Puslinch since 16 Feb (RAV et al.) was last seen 27 Apr, while another wintering bird was at Echo Bay, *Algoma* 1 Mar (DBH). Other singles in the south at Cape Chin, *Bruce* 4 May (PB) and Long Point townsite 4-16 May (TL et al.) were spring migrants. The 125 Harris's Sparrows tallied from Sleeman to Devlin, *Rainy River* 17 May (MSD), was a record-high spring count for Ontario. A first-year male **Gray-headed Junco** banded at Thunder Cape 15-21 May (JMW et al.) was a first for n. Ontario and just the third record for the province overall. Away from Lake Erie, single Summer Tanagers were found at St. Marys, *Perth* 2 May (DJB et al.), Thunder Cape 20 May (JMW), and Etobicoke 21 May (WER). A Scarlet Tanager at Silver Islet 29 Apr (CR) was very early for the north. Again this spring, a series of Western Tanagers was found in the north, with singles at Thunder Bay 4-6 May (RRC, GJM et al.), Wabigoon, *Kenora* 10-14 May (MMB et al.), and Kama Bay, *Thunder Bay* 18-19 May (SP). Exceptional numbers of migrant Northern Cardinals were tallied during the season at Long Point, with a total of 558 banded comprising 397 at the Tip, 120 at Squires Ridge, and 41 at Old Cut (L.P.B.O.); a singing male at Terrace Bay 19 May (AW) likely indicates the colonization of yet another town along the n. shore of Lake Superior. Record early for Ontario were single Blue Grosbeaks at Windsor, *Essex* 19-24 Apr (TJP et al.) and Toronto (Leslie St. Spit) 20-30 Apr (HSS et al.); additional singles were at Pelee Island 28 Apr (KGDB, LAK) and 11-13 May (PDC et al.) and at High Park, Toronto 22-23 May (JVD, ACB et al.). A female Indigo Bunting at Red Lake, *Kenora* 14-15 May (VF et al.) was very far north. A female-type Painted Bunting at Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* 29-30 Apr (MPA et al.) was the fourth record for Point Pelee. Single Dickcissels at Long Point were found at Mud Creek 11 May (DB, TL), another nearby 14 May (GEP), and Squires Ridge 23 May (EP, KAF); other singles were at Point Pelee 30 Apr (EWH) and 22 May (STP, VSB), at Pelee Island 15 (KGDB, ADB) & 20 May (GCAG), at South Baymouth 18 May (DM et al.) for a sixth *Manitoulin* record, at Whitefish Island, *Algoma* 20 May (DMB), and at Blenheim 27 May (RWW). A Bobolink at Burlington 20-21 Apr (MWJ et al.) was record early for the H.S.A. A singing male Red-winged Blackbird at Moosonee 24 Mar (DGR) was very early for s. James Bay. An out-of-place Western Meadowlark was at Michipicoten River Village, *Algoma* 17 May (AW). Four or more Yellow-headed Blackbirds were probably nesting at Cochenour 5 May+ (DSN), likely the most northerly location in the province for such activity; an extremely tame female on the beach at Neys P.P., *Thunder Bay* 18 May (AW) had likely recently flown across Lake Superior. A flock of 500 Rusty Blackbirds at Nipigon, *Thunder Bay* 28 Apr (GNS) was an excellent count for the north. A definitive male Orchard Oriole at Crozier, *Rainy River* 15-19 May (SAS, WRS et al.) was

This extremely tame female Yellow-headed Blackbird was found foraging on the beach at Neys Provincial Park, Thunder Bay District, Ontario on 18 May 2013. It had likely recently flown across Lake Superior. *Photograph by Alan Wormington.*



A Black-throated Gray Warbler graced Port Glasgow, Elgin County, Ontario on 20 April 2013, furnishing one of few records of spring migrants for the province. *Photograph by Douglas G. Zavitz.*

a rarity for the north. An estimated 900 Baltimore Orioles were within the Tip area of Point Pelee 15 May (GDB et al); one at Stoney Creek, *Hamilton* 14 Apr (GEH) was very early. A pair of Red Crossbills at Confederation Park, *Hamilton* 7 Apr+ (Angie Williams, KW et al.) were found to be nesting, a first for the H.S.A.

Extremely late for the south, 2 Common Redpolls were at Old Ottawa South, *Ottawa* 18 May, with one still present on the unprecedented date of 1 Jun (PWH); the 15 in Algonquin P.P. (near 60 km marker on Hwy. 60) 19 May (WJC) were also locally record late. Two Hoary Redpolls e. of Powassan, *Parry Sound* 22 Apr (LA), one at Constance Bay, *Ottawa* 28 Apr (JHS), and one at Algonquin P.P. (Visitor Centre) 28 Apr (LAF, RS) were also extremely late for the south; in the north, an even later Hoary was at Devlin 5 May (MSD). Single Greater Common Redpolls (*rostrata* subspecies) were at Watford 2 Mar (SMJ), London, *Middlesex* 23 Mar (GCP, ICP, JWT, Ann White), and St. Marys 11 Apr (EJ, LJ); several were at Algonquin P.P. (Visitor Centre), with the last 17 Apr (RIS) being locally record late. A Hornemann's"Hoary Redpoll (*hornemanni* subspecies) was near Westover, *Hamilton* 4-6 Mar (BNC), and another was at Richmond Hill, *York* 23 Mar (FAP). A European Goldfinch was at Ashbridge's Bay 28 Apr (ET), and another was at Selim 3-4 May (JLK, CAS). A single Evening Grosbeak was at Point Pelee 14 May (JHS, AMS, RPS), where the species is now very rare in spring.

Addenda: For spring season 2007 (*North American Birds* 61: 435-437), add a first-year male Painted Bunting at Scarborough, *Toronto* 20 May (collector unknown; *Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto). For spring season 2012 (*North American Birds* 66: 471-478), add the following occurrences at Point Pelee: Cattle Egret 13 May (Luke H. Berg, Gary Berg) and Yellow-throated Warbler 3 May (Allyson B. Parker, Bruce A. Parker). Also add a male Kirtland's Warbler at Goshen, *Huron* 28 May (Peter A. Read, Scott A. Martin, Satu Pernanon, Shelley Lohnes) and a wintering Indigo Bunting at Huntsville, *Haliburton* 26 Dec 2011–2 Apr 2012 (Charlie Forret, Penny Forret et al.).

Corrigenda: For spring season 2012 (*North American Birds* 66: 471-478): For the first entry in Table 2 (Fish Crow), change "mid-Mar" to "26 Mar" for the start of the Guelph record; and delete Eurasian Teal at Port Royal, Piping Plover at Long Point (Bluff Bar), Townsend's Warbler at Wheatley P.P., and Pink-sided Junco at Hillman Marsh (all not accepted by the Ontario B.R.C.). For spring season 2011 (*North American Birds* 65: 427-433): for the Swainson's Hawk at Long Point, delete "RWW" and change "JCC" to "JJC" (= Janice J. Chard); for the Bell's Vireo at Long Point, delete "NY" and change "JCC" to "JJC" (= Janice J. Chard); and delete the record of Lark Bunting at Hare Island (not accepted by the Ontario B.R.C.). For the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Moosonee, this was the fourth record for s. James Bay (not third as stated).

This Swainson's Warbler at the Tip of Long Point, Norfolk County 2 May 2013 established the earliest of eleven records for Ontario, all of which have been of spring migrants. *Photograph by Richard Dobbins.*

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Making only the third for Ontario, this Gray-headed Junco was present at Thunder Cape, Thunder Bay District from 15-21 (here 16) May 2013. *Photograph by John M. Woodcock.*

year, David L. Goodyear, Regan C. Goodyear, Les Griffith, Kevin E. Gustard, Donald B. Hall, Peter W. Hall, Brad A. Hamilton, Kevin C. Hannah, Allan G. Harris, William G. Harris, Karen Hartley, Jeremy L. Hatt, Maria Hayes, Frederick M. Helleiner, Barbara W. Henderson, Kurt J. Hennige, Brian E. Henshaw, Erika K. Hentsch, Tyler L. Hoar, Brandon R. Holden, Eric W. Holden, **James M. Holdsworth**, Mary C. Holdsworth, George E. Holland, Sandra L. Horvath, Scott C. Hulme, Alec M. Humann, Christy L. Humphrey, James W. Hunt, Ernest E. Hunter, Matt R. Iles, Jean Iron, **Marcie L. Jacklin**, Jarmo V. Jalava, Eric Jeffery, Liz Jeffery, Mark W. Jennings, Sean M. Jenniskens, Dave Jensen, Daniel S. Kaczynski, A. Gregg Kendall, Lillian A. Knopf, Robert D. Knudsen, Karl R. Konze, Mark A. Kubisz, Joseph L. Kutcher, Marina Lachtchenko, V. Bernard Ladouceur, Steven M. LaForest, Gordo Laidlaw, John Lamey (JLa), William G. Lamond, Don-Jean Léandri-Breton, Dayna L. LeClair, **John G. Lemon**, **Christina A. Lewis**, Joyce Litster (JLi), Nancy C. Littlejohn, Tim Lucas, **Stuart A. Mackenzie**, Ross M. Mackintosh, Dace Maenpaa, **Blake A. Mann**, Zachary Marchuk, Eric B. Marcum, Christopher Martin, David A. Martin, Reuven D. Martin (RDMa), Angela M. Massey, Richared B. McArthur, Lloyd M. McEwan, Maureen McEwan, Timothy J. McKillop, Andy McKinnon, James McKnight, Kevin A. McLaughlin, Gloria J. McNeill, R. Douglas McRae (RDMc), Stéphane Menu, Matthew J. Mills, Peter B. Mills, Brian J. Moore, **Brian L. Morin**, Tom Muir, Norman C. Murr, Bruce D. Murphy, Brandon Nakogee, Ryk Naves, James D. Nealon, David S. New, Kenneth M. Newcombe, Christina J. Nielsen, Kenneth D. Niles, Ethel Nuttall, Stephen J. O'Donnell, **Marilyn Ohler**, Sumiko U. Onishi, Terry Osborne, Eleanor Page, Jesse J. Pakkala, Giovanni Pari, **Martin J. Parker**, Jenny Pearce, Kelvin Pearce, Dianna M. Peck, George K. Peck, Mark K. Peck, Sylvio Pelletier, Sarah B.J. Penfold, Marcos Perrez, Otto Peter, Jay W. Peterson, Stephen T. Pike, Frank A. Pinilla, Robert V. Pinilla, Gavin C. Platt, Ian C. Platt, George E. Pond, Richard W. F. Pope, Michele M. Potter, Tom Pratt, Thomas J. Preney, Julie M. Preslie, David I. Pryor, Rayfield R. Pye, **Brian D. Ratcliff**, Mark D. Read, **Peter A. Read** (PARe), William F. Read, D. Paul Reeves, Marianne B. Reid, Kory J. Renaud, Wayne E. Renaud, Lynn Richardson, **Ron Ridout**, **Maureen Riggs**, Paul A. Riss (PARi), Barry Robinson, Cheryl Ross, Jonathan P. Ruddy, Sarah E. Rupert, Michael W.P. Runtz, Diane G. Ryder, Bryan Sabourin, Mike Sacopulos, Denby Sadler, Mark A. Saunders, John B. Schmelefske, Kevin R. Shackleton, R. Ian Shanahan, Howard S. Shapiro, Nigel J. Shaw, Jill Silviera, Lynda J. Sisco, Alexander M. Skevington, Jeffrey H. Skevington, Richard P. Skevington, Shirley A. Skirten, Wayne R. Skirten, Emily K. Slavik, Catherine A. Smith, H. Gordon Smith, **Roy B. H. Smith**, William F. Smith, Patricia Somerleigh, Robert E. Somerleigh, **R. Terry Sprague**, Bradley D. Steinberg, Rick Stronks, Gregory N. Stroud, Donald A. Sutherland, Robert A. Sutherland, David E. Szmyr, Elias Takacs, J. Michael Tate, **Barbara L. Taylor**, Joan W. Taylor, Philip D. Taylor, Rodney C. Thompson, Adam P. Timpf, Evan R. Timusk, Mick J. Townsend, **Ronald G. Tozer**, Brent Turcotte, **James A. Turland**, John V. Turner, John E. Van den Broeck, Jay VanderGaast, Angela M. Vanderheyden, Anthony B. Vanderheyden, Mark D. Vanderheyden, Matthew N. Vanderheyden, Joshua D. Vandermeulen, Rohan A. van Twest, Ursala E. Wall, Dean J. Ware, William W. Watson, Thomas M. Wheatley, Chris Williams, George A. Williams, Ken Williams, Stuart R. Williams, Michael D. Williamson, Bruce A. Wilson, Linda Wladarski, Ross W. Wood, **John M. Woodcock**, P. Allen Woodliffe, **Alan Wormington**, David B. Worthington, Peter A. Yoerg, Howard M. Youth, Douglas G. Zavitz, **Kirk W. Zufelt**.

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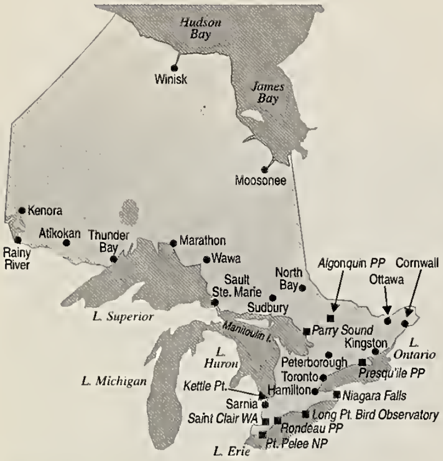
Ontario • SUMMER REPORT



Blake A. Mann

The nesting season was substantially wetter and slightly cooler throughout most of the province compared to recent years. As a result, vegetation was more lush, and vernal ponds and sloughs remained wet for longer periods of time, with some not drying up at all. Also due to wet conditions, breeding spots for mosquitoes were plentiful, and infestations were considered the worst in many years. Torrential downpours of rain occurred in various locales, with some areas experiencing multiple episodes. For example, Toronto received a record one-day rainfall 8 June that far exceeded that from Hurricane *Hazel* in 1954. As a continuation of the cool spring, some birds arrived on the breeding territory a little later than what has been seen in the recent past. Some spring migrants lingered well into June in the south. Rarities during the period included Western Grebe, a summering adult Northern Gannet, Brown Pelican (2), Eurasian Collared-Dove (2), White-winged Dove, Say's Phoebe, Blue Grosbeak, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Abbreviations: Point Pelee (Point Pelee Birding Area, a standard C.B.C. circle centered just north of Point Pelee N.P.). Ontario is conveniently divided into n. and s. regions along 47° N latitude.

WATERFOWL THROUGH GALLINULES

A few Snow Geese remained well into the summer in e. Ontario with some never heading north. Up to 8 were at the Alfred S.T.P., *Prescott and Russell* 9-20 Jun (Mark Dennis, m.ob.) while 3 spent the entire summer there (*fide* BLM). Unusual for summer in the south was a Brant at Amherst Island, *Lennox and Addington* 18 Jul (V. Paul Mackenzie, Mark D. Read). Tundra Swans often linger in the south after spring migration, but the 2 at Hullet Marsh, *Huron* 25 Jun seemed out of place (Eric Jeffery). In the north, a Tundra Swan was an unusual summer bird at Longridge Point, *Cochrane* 25 Jul (APT, Ian C. Sturdee). A rather high count of 47 Gadwalls was at East Point, *Cochrane* 26 Jul (CAF, AC, Jean Iron). A Surf Scoter pair was unusually late at Blenheim S.T.P., *Chatham-Kent* 1-2 Jun (JTB, SRC, BAM, m.ob.). Two were also at Fort Erie, *Niagara* 2 Jun (BRH). A

This Western Grebe provided an unusual early summer record for Ontario. A first for the Rondeau area, this individual was at Rondeau Provincial Park 12-13 (here 13) June 2013. *Photograph by P. Allen Woodliffe.*

raft of 7 White-winged Scoters was noteworthy for the date at Grimsby, *Niagara* 15 Jun (JDV). Long-tailed Ducks had notable numbers in the south well into the summer period. There were several sightings of single birds on Lake Ontario and e. Lake Erie, but one in the south was late at Erieau, *Chatham-Kent* 15 Jun (SRC), 16 were off Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* 17 Jun (Jay Vandergaast), 51 at Thickson Bay, *Durham* 13 Jul (GC), and one was at Rock Point P.P., *Haldimand* 31 Jul–4 Aug (Judy Robins et al.). Up to 2500 Black Scoters were counted at Longridge Point 29 Jul (SAM, APT). Notable for the east were 9 Ruddy Ducks at Alfred S.T.P. 13 Jun (AW). Red-throated Loons were also tardy in the south into the summer period. The first spring record and the fourth local record of Red-throated Loon for Algonquin P. P. was on Lake Travers 1 Jun (Jeffrey H. Skevington); an exceptional 27 were at Fort Erie 2 Jun (BRH); one was off Bronte, *Halton* 7 Jun (Mark W. Jennings); and another single was at St. Catharines, *Niagara* 15 Jun (JDV). Noteworthy Common Loons included a record-late ad. at Point Pelee 8 Jun (BAM). An exceptional 32 were at Presqu'ile P.P., *Northumberland* 22 Jun (RDM). A Western Grebe at Rondeau P.P. 12-13 Jun (Pauline Catling, m.ob.) was not only an exceptional record for summer but was also a long overdue first for the local area.

An ad. Northern Gannet wandering Lake Ontario throughout the summer made another appearance at Presqu'ile P.P. 25 Jul (Stephen A. Oswald). It is assumed to be the same individual reported there in May, as ads. are extremely rare on the Great Lakes. American White Pelicans are becoming more frequent in the south far from any breeding areas; one was at Hamilton, *Hamilton* 5-11 Jun (Jackson Hudecki, m.ob.), 5 were at Cedar Cove, *Lambton* 7 Jun (Alfred H. Rider et al.), and 3 were at Trenton, *Hastings* 7 Jun (Paul Thompson). A single was at Port Colborne, *Niagara* 22 Jun (Jean Hampson, Robert Highcock et al.), and 2 were at Fergus, *Wellington* 28 Jun (Kevin Murphy). Other singles were at Port Rowan, *Norfolk* 2-3 Jul (RR et al.) and at Whitby, *Durham* 13 Jul (GC).

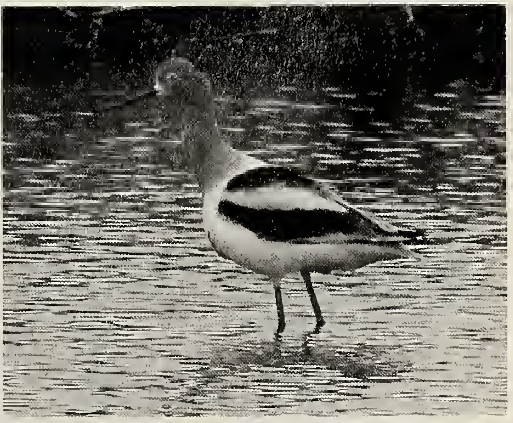
A Brown Pelican was briefly noted at Niagara Falls, *Niagara* 1 Jul (Dawn M. Burke et al.). Another, criss-crossing Lake Erie during the summer from its base in Cleveland, Ohio, made a brief appearance at Leamington, *Essex* 7 Jul (William Kerr), providing the fourth record for Point Pelee. Great Egrets are continually expanding their range in a northerly fashion. Seven were near Britannia, *Ottawa* the entire summer (m.ob.). Breeding was first confirmed there in 2012 but not in 2013. Two Cattle Egrets were photographed at Mitchell's Bay, *Chatham-Kent* 10 Jul (Anne Dompierre, Richard J. Dompierre). Notable in the north was a Green Heron at Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* 3-7 Jun (Susan V. Robinson, m.ob.), as was one at Ellesmere Village, *Nipissing* 18 Jun (JDV). Another appeared at Pigeon River P.P., *Thunder Bay* 14 Jul (Paul Olsen). A Black-crowned Night-Heron spent time at Thunder Bay 27 Jun–24 Jul (Nicholas G. Escott, David Welbourne, m.ob.). Uncommon for the area was a Common Gallinule at Alfred S.T.P. 13 Jun (AW).

These two Cattle Egrets were unusual summer visitors at Mitchell's Bay, Chatham-Kent County, Ontario 10 July 2013. *Photograph by Richard J. Dompierre.*

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH JAEGERS

Piping Plovers are making a remarkable recovery on the Great Lakes. Pairs once again nested and raised young at Sauble Beach, *Bruce*, and two pairs were successful at Wasaga Beach, *Simcoe* (m.ob.). A nesting pair also fledged young near Providence, *Manitoulin*. There, a male was first observed 1 Jun before the female arrived 8 Jun where they managed to raise 3 healthy chicks (*fide* Christopher T. Bell). A male at Presqu'ile P.P. since 16 May (RDM, m.ob.) was last seen 7 Jun. Another briefly occupied a section of beach on Long Point proper 4 Jun (Eleanor Page, APT). A wary American Avocet at Blenheim S.T.P. 8-11 Jun (SRC, m.ob.) was a very late spring migrant, while another on the Grand River at Brantford, *Brant* 21 Jul (Taylor Wilson) was a fall migrant. A Solitary Sandpiper at Holiday Beach, *Essex* 4 Jun (JMB, Nadia M. Noble) was an extremely late spring migrant. Nesting evidence was assumed by the actions of a very agitated Greater Yellowlegs near Wakami Lake P.P., *Sudbury* 7 Jun (Peter S. Burke, Kenneth Tuininga). This would constitute one of the most southerly nesting records for the province. Noteworthy Ruddy Turnstones included the 2 at Lake Opeongo in Algonquin P.P. 12 Jun (Arni Stinnissen). It was the latest spring record and only the seventh for the park, where shorebirds are scarcely seen. One at Wheatley Harbour 30 Jun (PRB) tied Point Pelee's earliest fall arrival date. A Pectoral Sandpiper at Hillman Marsh, *Essex* 10 Jun (Richard P. Carr) was presumably a late spring migrant. A Red Knot at Schomberg S.T.P., *Simcoe* 7 Jun (JDV) was a rare inland record. Peculiar for the date, a Least Sandpiper was at Blenheim S.T.P. 13 Jun (ph. JTB).

An ad. Black-headed Gull in nonbreeding plumage was at Point Pelee's Tip 16-23 Jun (AW, STP, m.ob.). Notable Little Gulls included one ad. at Point Pelee's Tip 16 Jun (AW et al.), only the second summer record locally for an adult. Perhaps the same individual was again seen there 22 Jun, when 2 first-cycle birds were also present the same day (ph. BAM). A total of 7 Little Gulls of various ages was present at Port Burwell, *Elgin* 6 Jul (Gavin C. Platt). An ad. Laughing Gull was photographed at Port Burwell P.P. 2 Jun (Cliff Dickinson), and perhaps the same individual appeared at nearby Long Point 3 Jun (m.ob.). A second-cycle bird was at Wheatley Harbour 5 Jun (CAC). The only Franklin's Gull of the period was a first-cycle



This American Avocet was a late spring migrant at Blenheim, Chatham-Kent County, Ontario 8-11 (here 8) June 2013. *Photograph by Blake A. Mann.*

A late spring migrant continuing from the influx of the species to Ontario in May 2013, this Western Kingbird was photographed at Tara, Bruce County 6 June. *Photograph by James Punnett.*

A pair of Yellow-throated Warblers once again likely nested at Rondeau Provincial Park, Chatham-Kent County, Ontario after arrival in mid-April 2013. This individual was the last one observed 11 August (here). *Photograph by Richard B. McArthur.*

bird at Wheatley Harbour 5 Jun (CAC). Lesser Black-backed Gulls are becoming more frequent in summer on the s. Great Lakes. One at Port Dover, *Haldimand* 29 Jun (SAM) was one of only a few local summer records. A record-high count locally for summer was the 10, 7 of which were first-cycle birds, at the Tip of Point Pelee 1 Jul (PRB, BAM, m.ob.). Caspian Terns were in plentiful supply in the south in early summer. At least 20 were present at Erieau 12 Jun (BAM, PAW et al.). Arctic Terns are rare in the south but frequently seen on the Ottawa River; 4 on 11 Jun and 7 on 12 Jun were good numbers for the date at the Deschênes Rapids, *Ottawa* (AW). A sudden influx of 42 ad. Forster's Terns at Point Pelee 6 Jun (AW) undoubtedly pertained to failed breeding birds from colonies to the north. Two ad. Parasitic Jaegers at Longridge Point 20 Jul (SAM) were early fall migrants.

DOVES THROUGH MIMIDS

Two Eurasian Collared-Doves, likely a mated pair, were observed just outside Point Pelee N.P. 2 Jul (MDC). A White-winged Dove was briefly seen at Dundas, *Hamilton* 23 Jun (RZD). Uncommon for the north was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Sleeman, *Rainy River* 17 Jul (Jarmo V. Jalava). A Barred Owl at Fort Erie 6-12 Jul was the first in many decades for the local area (John E. Black et al.). Rarely seen in the south during summer, lone Great Gray Owls were at Tobermory, *Bruce* 12 Jun (Lucas J. Foerster) and in Gordon Twp., *Manitoulin* 21-22 Jun (Terry Land, Mona Lewis et al.). Noteworthy for summer was a Northern Saw-whet Owl at Presqu'ile P.P. 31 Jul (Frederick M. Helleiner, m.ob.). A Chuck-will's-widow called for only two evenings at Rondeau P.P. 3-4 Jun (JMB, Dwayne D. Murphy, m.ob.) and was probably a late spring visitor. Rare for Muskoka was a Willow Flycatcher at Bracebridge S.T.P. 5-23 Jun (BLT et al.). An Acadian Flycatcher once again was on territory at the northern limit of its range at Happy Valley Forest, *York* until at least 22 Jun (m.ob.). A **Say's Phoebe** was at Green Bay, *Manitoulin* 13 Jun (CTB, M. Joan Bell). A Western Kingbird was nicely photographed at Tara, *Bruce* 6 Jun (James Punnett). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher briefly appeared at Sparta, *Elgin* 1 Jun (Richard B. Obbema). As Common Ravens expand their range, more sightings are found in the south, such as the one near London, *Middlesex* 22 Jun (Cheryl E. Edgecombe). Pushing the northerly limit was a Carolina Wren at Westmeath, *Renfrew* 14 Jun (DMB, CES). A Hermit Thrush at Point Pelee N.P. 17 Jun (AW, PRB) seemed out of place as a record-late spring migrant. North of its usual range was a Gray Catbird just n. of Cochrane, *Cochrane* 1 Jul (Joshua Janvrin), and well out of range was one at East Point, *Cochrane* 25 Jul–12 Aug (AC et al.). A Brown Thrasher was at Burnt Point 8 Jun (KFA et al.); a singing male was at East Point 17-18 Jul (CAF et al.). Brown Thrashers are rare but regular at s. James Bay.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Northern Parula at Point Pelee 30 Jun provided a rare summer record (JDV, STP et al.). Two male Magnolia Warblers acting territorially in separate locations n. of Newbury Station, *Middlesex* 9 Jun–7 Jul (Denise Dykema, BAM) suggested rare southerly breeding attempts. A pair of Yellow-throated Warblers likely attempted to nest for the third consecutive year Rondeau P.P., *Chatham-Kent*. A pair was first observed interacting 20 Apr (JTB, SRC, BAM). One was observed gathering nesting material 10 May while a concerted search for a nest was underway. The last observation was a single bird photographed 11 Aug (Richard B. McArthur). Numerous attempts by various observers were made to find conclusive evidence of breeding, but proof of that first nesting record of Yellow-throated Warbler for Canada was never achieved. A Palm Warbler at Burpee, *Manitoulin* 22 Jul (Doreen E. Bailey) was likely a very early fall migrant. A male Prothonotary Warbler banded at Shirleys Bay, *Ottawa* 1 Jun was out of range (m.ob.). Also far from normal range, a singing male Hooded Warbler was found at Westmeath 1 Jun (DMB, CES). A Henslow's Sparrow was a tardy migrant at Point Pelee N.P. 1 Jun (AW). A young male Blue Grosbeak was discovered at Chippawa, *Niagara* 3 Jun (JMH), but subsequent searches failed to turn it up again; the bird was likely a classic example of a post-spring wanderer. Some Dickcissels set up territories in familiar locations during the period, but far fewer were reported overall than the invasion of the previous year. One was well seen at Luther Marsh, *Wellington* 9 Jun–6 Jul (MDC et al.); 3 males were singing at the Blenheim Landfill, *Chatham-Kent* 14 Jul (Keith J. Burk et al.); perhaps up to 8 territories were set up in an ideal field e. of Wheatley, *Chatham-Kent* when 3 were first observed starting 15 Jun (JMB et al.); one was noted near Armow, *Bruce* 19 Jun (Kenneth G. D. Burrell); and at least two territories were at Hillman Marsh, after a male was first observed there 22 Jun (BAM et al.). An Eastern Meadowlark was rare for Rainy River 10-11 Jul (Michael S. Dawber) where its western counterpart is the norm. A Western Meadowlark was a one-day wonder at Sarnia, *Lambton* 9 Jun (Sean M. Jenniskens), while another stayed at Kars, *Ottawa* 18-21 Jun (Lynda Ryan, m.ob.). The only notable crossbill was a male Red Crossbill observed near Oshawa, *Durham* 3 Jul (David Ruch).

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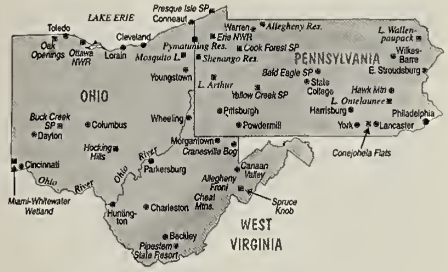
Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



Victor W. Fazio, III
Tom Johnson

Along with many of the states to the east of our Region, the Ohio Valley was much wetter than average during the summer season, particularly in June, when northeastern Ohio was inundated and Pennsylvania recorded 138% more than average rainfall, West Virginia 140% more. Temperatures for June were very close to the long-term average across all three states. July was also average in terms of temperature in Ohio and continued very wet; Pennsylvania was much warmer than usual and also ended up wetter, with Philadelphia recording its rainiest day ever on 28 July, when some 20 cm (8 inches) of rain fell, most of it in four hours!

Abbreviations: Conneaut (Conneaut Marsh and Harbor, *Ashtabula*, OH); Ottawa (Ottawa N.W.R., *Ottawa/Lucas*, OH); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, PA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

Species diversity of waterfowl was strong, with 18 species found across Pennsylvania during the season. The highlight was an apparent Cackling Goose found in *Washington*, PA 28 Jul–4 Aug (p.a., Mark Vass). Any taxon of Cackling Goose is incredibly rare in summer in Pennsylvania, and this individual was a surprise in that it appeared to be consistent with the subspecies *taverneri*, previously undocumented in the state and almost unknown in the East. Trumpeter Swans lingered through the summer in three Pennsylvania counties: one was at Tamarack Lake, *Crawford* 9 Jun (m.ob.), one at Presque Isle Bay, *Erie* 1 Jun (Mark Vass), and one at Conewago Wetlands, *Lancaster* (TJ, m.ob.).

Single Gadwalls lingered in cen. Ohio 3 Jun in *Franklin* (Jeffrey Pontius), while an early migrant had returned to *Pickaway* 30 Jul (GSt). An American Wigeon remained in *Franklin*, OH 1 Jun (DSr) for the only summer report in the state s. of Lake Erie. The American Black Duck continues to decline in Ohio as a summer resident/breeder. The only report away from the Lake Erie shoreline was as a single bird in *Medina* 22 Jun (Robert Jackson). Hybrids with Mallards were reported from *Lucas*, OH within the Western Basin of Lake Erie where expected, while 4 in *Kanawha*, WV 27 Jun (Walt Wagner-Hecht) was most unusual. A rare breeding record for Ohio of the Northern Shoveler was documented at Battelle-Darby Creek Metropark, *Franklin* where a female with a brood of 6 wasseen 15 Jun (GSt, m.ob.). Notable summering duck records included a female Redhead on the Susquehanna River at Middleton, *Dauphin*, PA 10 Jul+ (Erik Barber), A single bird appeared in sw. Ohio at Fernald Nature Preserve, *Hamilton* 29-31 Jul (ph. Brian Wulker). Of 5 Lesser Scaup lingering within the Western Basin, one appeared at East Harbor S.P., *Ottawa* 1 Jul (Jen Brumfield). Unexpected was one on the New River, *Raleigh*, WV 7 Jun (Stephen Kloiber). An imm. female Surf Scoter was at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, PA 15-23 Jun (Bob Schutsky), and a Red-breasted Merganser was at New Brighton, *Beaver*, PA 7 Jun (Mark Vass).

Common Mergansers continue pushing westward and into lower elevations. Breeding was again confirmed for Conneaut, *Ashtabula*, OH with 2 ads. and 5 juvs. there 28 Jul (Jeff Harvey). A single female on Tinkers Creek, a tributary of the Cuyahoga River, *Cuyahoga*, OH 24 Jul (Ken Andrews, Dwight Chasar) is intriguing and constitutes a rare summer record for that watershed, where there appears to be suitable habitat for breeding. The West Virginia highlands continue to support birds in *Pocahontas* (Rennie Talbert), *Grant* (Derek Courtney et al.), *Hardy* (Hugh Beard), *Tucker* (DHo), *Randolph* (DHo), *Pendleton* (Michael Lanzone), and *Monongalia* (Gretchern Nareff). A new expansion is taking hold within n. West Virginia and adjacent Ohio waters. Two ads. with 11 young were in *Marshall*, WV 10 Jun (TBr), while 7 birds at the mouth of Wills Creek on the Ohio River in *Jefferson*, OH 27 Jun (Gary Bush). Another 3 were located at two sites in adjacent *Brooke*, WV 9 Jun (Phil Carter) and 2 Jun (SP). A bird in *Lucas*, OH 18 Jul (Tim Haney) marked the westernmost summer dispersal to date. Ruddy Ducks were surprisingly widespread in Ohio, being reported from nine counties led by a flock of 6 in *Lucas* 7 Jul (Tim Thompson).

A single Pied-billed Grebe at New Martinsville, *Wetzel* 12 Jun (Wilma Jarrell, TBr) was the only report for West Virginia. A Horned Grebe in breeding plumage in *Greene* 9 Jun (Sam Corbo) made an exceptional summer record for sw. Ohio. The only other Regional reports were of singles at Presque Isle, *Erie*, PA until 14 Jun (Mark Vass) and at Marsh Creek S.P., *Chester*, PA 15 Jun (J. Atkins). A **Western Grebe** was present at Gull Point, *Erie* 21-25 Jun (Mark Vass, m.ob.) for a first county record. A Western Grebe along the Lake Erie shoreline at Headlands S.P., *Lake*, OH 15-16 Jun (Bob & Denise Lane, ph. TFr, ph. CCh, HP, Andy Avram) was likely the same bird. Single Red-necked Grebes were found at Red Rose Commons, *Lancaster* 27 Jul (Glen Shaffer) and Sly Lake, *Wayne* 9 Jun (Amy Davis, Jeff Davis). These mark the third and fourth summer Red-necked Grebe records for Pennsylvania, following birds in 1994 and 2003, also years with late-winter influxes.

Wood Stork is truly exceptional in the Region, yet wanderings northward may be on the rise. Larry Burnett brought the presence of 3-4 birds reported by residents of rural *Lake*, OH to the attention of the birding community in late Jul. One imm. was well documented 24 Jul (ph. Cole DiFabio, ph. CCh, ph. HP, m.ob.). A few American White Pelicans are expected within the Western Basin every summer, but **20** at Cedar Point N.W.R., *Lucas* 1 Jun (JBo) easily sets the bar at a new high. The species is much less frequent away from Lake Erie, so a flock of 9 at Charles Mill Lake, *Ashland*, OH 13 Jun (Gary Cowell, ph. CCo, Amber Hart) was equally astonishing. Without question the star of the summer lakefront birding in Cleveland was the imm. **Brown Pelican** discovered 24 Jun by Jen Brumfield while counting Herring Gull nests in the vicinity of the harbor. This bird was visible from a popular park as it frequented an offshore breakwall. Celebrity soon followed through media outlets and the printing of t-shirts during a stay of several months.

While Snowy Egrets were underreported this summer, Little Blue Herons were on par with reports from the se. counties of *Chester* (Brian Henderson), *Lebanon* (Jonathan Heller, Timothy Becker, David McNaughton, Brandon Snavely), *Montgomery* (Kevin Crilley), and *Philadelphia* beginning in mid-Jul (Martin Dellwo, Frank Windfelder, Adrian Binns). The only Snowy Egret in Ohio away from the Western Basin was an ad. at Ellis Lake Wetlands, *Butler* 10 Jul (ph. CCo). In stark contrast with 2012, not a single Little Blue Heron was reported in 2013 from Ohio. A Cattle Egret at Wendy Park, Cleveland 22 Jul (JBr) represents a rare summer record for the Central Basin. American Bittern continues to hold on within the Canaan Valley, *Tucker*, WV, where 2 were documented 23 Jun (ph. Frode Jacobsen). The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron colony in Harrisburg, *Dauphin* appears to be thriving, with a high count of 12 nests on 2 Jun (TJ) and 35 ads. and imms. on 12 Jun (JBo). These birds are nesting in large sycamores along urban streets, away from other waterbirds that nest nearby along the Susquehanna River. Away from the long-standing breeding site in residential Columbus (the only known in Ohio), an ad. was well described

A most unexpected summer find, this Red-necked Grebe turned up at Red Rose Commons, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania 27 July 2013. *Photograph by Glen Shaffer.*

Representing a first record for Erie County, Pennsylvania, this Western Grebe hung around Gull Point 21-25 (here 21) June 2013. *Photograph by Mark Vass.*

from Mills Creek, *Delaware* 31 Jul (Katie Lambert). Glossy Ibis are regular in se. Pennsylvania in summer, but a count of 27 flying up the Susquehanna River in *Dauphin* 1 Jun (Ed Bernot) was exceptional. Single *Plegadis* ibis were reported from Ottawa 16 Jun (Peggy Blair) and Winous Point Marsh, *Ottawa* 4 Jun (JBo).

KITES THROUGH NIGHTJARS

Continuing their slow increase, 6 Mississippi Kites were reported from *Chester* and *Northampton* in e. Pennsylvania during the period, including 3 heading south at Nottingham County Park, *Chester* 16 Jun (Nick Pulcinella). Returning to their 2012 nest site at Brave Park, *Hamilton*, OH, 2 Mississippi Kites appeared 31 May (Dana Cornelisen), with one remaining through 15 Jun (Tyler Ficker, ph. LK, John Habig, RA, m.ob.). The only King Rail report in the Region was of 4 birds at Winous Point Marsh, *Ottawa*, OH 4 Jun (JBo). Only occasional in the Region, a Black Rail was a surprising summer resident near Reading in *Berks*, PA. One sang from a small wetland 20 May–28 Jun (Kathy Grim, Ken Lebo). The other vagrant rail record from this period was a Clapper Rail found dead in Center City, *Philadelphia* 22 Jun (Keith Russell). The 20 Sandhill Cranes reported from the Greater Columbus area, led by 9 near Hoover Reservoir, *Delaware* 25 Jul (Charles Bombaci), represent a healthy number for cen. Ohio.

Three Piping Plovers appeared at Presque Isle, *Erie* this period, including a banded bird 8 Jun (Roger Donn) and unbanded birds 8-9 Jun (Roger Donn, Mary Birdsong) and 26-28 Jul (Roger Donn). A Black-necked Stilt 19-21 Jul at Shartlesville, *Berks* (Matt Wlasniewski) was the rarest Pennsylvania shorebird of the period. American Avocets were reported from an impressive six counties, reinforcing the impression that this shorebird species is slowly becoming more widespread and regular in its occurrence in Pennsylvania. Two were on the Ohio River in *Allegheny* 20 Jul (Mark Vass); one was at Bloomsburg, *Columbia* 27 Jul (Jon DeBalko); one was off Little Tinicum Island in the Delaware River, *Delaware* 20 Jul (Al Guarente); 7 passed Presque Isle, *Erie* from 17 Jun through 26 Jul (Roger Donn); and 2 were at Greencastle Reservoir, *Franklin* 6 Jul (Carl Garner, Shannon Thompson). An American Avocet at Cedar Point N.W.R., *Lucas*, OH 1 Jun (JBo) was a late spring migrant. Detection of fall migrants in Ohio along Lake Erie beginning 7 Jul was lackluster. Remarkably, this was exceeded by a flock of 9 at Mosquito Lake S.P., *Trumbull*, OH 9 Jul (Dan Briem). Early summer Willets are rare on Lake Erie, so a bird at Cleveland 16-17 Jun (Elizabeth McQuaid et al., Rich & Karen Kassouf) was noteworthy. The fall flight was unremarkable, led by 7 at Presque Isle, *Erie*, PA 6 Jul (ph. Tim Lenz, ph. James Flynn). Eight birds in the Ohio interior included 4 at East Fork S.P, *Clermont* the same day (ph. Donald Morse Jr.). The 14 Upland Sandpipers in *Harrison*, OH 23 Jun (SP) exceeded the total of all other reports for the state. The fall flight of Whimbrels along Lake Erie numbered at least 11 birds. A Hudsonian Godwit at Presque Isle, *Erie* was unusual for the date of 29 Jun (Roger Donn). Marbled Godwits appeared as singles in Ohio at Conneaut 20 Jul (Wes Hatch) and at East Fork S.P., *Clermont* 6 Jul (ph. Donald Morse, Jr.). A storm-grounded 50 Ruddy Turnstones and 30 Red Knots were at Presque Isle, *Erie* 6 Jun (Roger Donn); these birds could have been heading northward from staging areas along Delaware Bay when they encountered heavy rain and were forced to land. An early Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at Presque Isle, *Erie* 28 Jul (Roger Donn), about three weeks early.

A Little Gull at Conneaut 4 Jun (ph. Chris Swan) was unexpected. Single Laughing Gulls in Ohio were at Conneaut 3 Jun (Sandra Griffiths) and 11 Jul (ph. Daniel Parsons), with 2 at Alum Creek Reservoir, *Delaware*, OH 7 Jul (Kevin & Amy O'Neil). One was photographed the next day (Irina Shulgina). Rarely detected early summer, a Franklin's Gull in breeding plumage was at Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, *Lake*, OH 15 Jun (ph. TFr). Fall migrant Lesser Black-backed Gulls are annual in the Lake Erie Basin by the first week of Jul, but Jun records remain scarce. Single first-cycle birds were at Cedar Point N.W.R., *Lucas*, OH 1 Jun (JBo) and at Cleveland 16 Jun (Jen Brumfield). While viewing the Brown Pelican on its second day 25 Jun, Brumfield noted a third-cycle Glaucous Gull resting on the same breakwall in Cleveland. The bird remained through the period (m.ob.) for an exceptional summer record for Ohio, not to mention affording an extraordinary sight of two wayward birds in the same field of view. For a period without a notable tropical storm, three reports of Least Tern made an above-average count. One was at Blue Marsh Lake 7 Jun (Joan Silagy); others were at John Heinz N.W.R. in Philadelphia 17 Jun (Frank Windfelder) and 4 Jul (Debbie Beer, Adrian Binns). Two in Ohio included singles at Campbell Lakes Preserve, *Hamilton* 2 Jun (ph. LL, m.ob.) and Alum Creek S.P., *Delaware* 7 Jun (Andy Sewell, Tom Bain, DK, m.ob.). A Eurasian Collared-Dove at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., *Wyandot* 16 Jun (ph. Irina Shulgina) represents a first county record. The species persists at recent locations in West Virginia, with 2 at Union, *Monroe* 14 Jul (Derek Courtney) and one in *Berkeley* 13 Jul (Thomas Masters). The Chuck-will's-widow that has kept a territory at Fort Indiantown Gap, *Lebanon* for several years was noted 5 Jun (David McNaughton).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

In Pennsylvania, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were confirmed nesting at Boulder Run Swamp in *Luzerne* and Coalbed Swamp in *Wyoming*; a male was also on territory 21 Jun in Red Brook Swamp, *Wyoming* (Doug Gross). A **Tropical Kingbird** was at Gray's Ferry Crescent Trail in Philadelphia 20 Jun (Alexander Zorach, ph. GLA, m.ob.). The bird's bill structure was consistent with Tropical Kingbird over Couch's, and its identity was confirmed by trilling calls heard by Armistead. This represents Pennsylvania's first record of Tropical Kingbird. Away from known breeding sites, a Bell's Vireo near North Baltimore, *Wood*, OH 20 Jun (TK) was unexpected. Fish Crows maintained a presence along a 2-km stretch of South Green Rd., within suburban Shaker Heights and University Heights of e. *Cuyahoga*, OH throughout the season (Andy Jones, Martin Calabrese, SL, m.ob.). Up to 5 were found 28 Jul (Sameer Apte). The *Knox*, OH Common Raven was reported 15 Jun (Joe Hammond). Most unusual were 4 in the vicinity of the Ohio River just s. of Ravenswood, *Jackson*, WV 28 Jul (Brad Goodner).

A **Swainson's Warbler** was singing at State Game Lands 51, *Fayette*, PA 8 & 13 Jun (Ben Coulter, Cory DeStein). A Tennessee Warbler caught 24 Jul at a Marienville, *Forest* banding station was most likely a very early migrant. Some previous Pennsylvania summer records of birds that had not completed their prebasic molt were probably participating in a molt migration. Blackpoll Warblers bred in forested swamps in both *Luzerne* and *Wyoming* (Doug Gross) this season. The species was first reported breeding in Pennsylvania in *Wyoming* in 1994. A Blackburnian Warbler at Battelle-Darby Creek Metropark, *Franklin*, OH 14 Jun (DSr) was a very late migrant.

Dickcissels sang on territories in scattered locations as far e. as Windsor Castle, *Berks*, where 4 were present through 21 Jul (m.ob.); however, it was not an exceptional year for the species in Pennsylvania, with only 3 present 29 Jun–20 Jul in the species' frequent stronghold of the w. Cumberland Valley near Newburg, *Cumberland* (Vern Gauthier). Lark Sparrows are regular breeding species of nw. Ohio (*Lucas*) and the Little Miami River watershed in sw. Ohio. The latter area hosted duos at three sites in *Hamilton* (Leslie Houser), *Montgomery* (RA), and *Greene* (Shannon Thompson, SL, m.ob.). Another site in *Montgomery* hosted a lone bird 11 Jul (Chris Zacharias, Jason Sullivan). The species persist near Dundee, *Tuscarawas* in e.-cen. Ohio, where 2 were present 8 Jun (Margaret Bowman et al.). The easternmost report in the Region was a well-described bird within reclaimed strip mine lands near the Harrison County Airport, *Harrison* 28 Jul (SP). White-throated Sparrows away from breeding areas included singles at Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, *Lake*, OH 9 Jun (TFr), at Navarre Marsh, *Ottawa* 13 Jul (Mark Shieldcastle), and 2 at Geis Wildlife Area, *Cuyahoga* 3 Jul (Diane Skipper). A Dark-eyed Junco at Charleston, *Kanawha*, WV 5 Jun (Catherine Stutler) was well away from breeding sites and likely a late migrant.

A Summer Tanager at Holcomb Woods, *Wood* 17 Jun (TK) was a rare find for nw. Ohio away from the Oak Openings. The species has pushed into sw. Pennsylvania over the past 15 years. One of the more northerly reports was of one at New Alexandria, *Westmoreland* 15 Jun (Linda Martin-Rust). In concert with this expansion, at the n. tip of West Virginia one was reported from the Tomlinson Run Lake area, *Hancock* 23 Jul (James Fletcher). Blue Grosbeaks may be undergoing a similar expansion in the same area. Small populations within *Muskingum*, *Tuscarawas*, and *Holmes*, OH have been known for more than a decade and were again well reported this season. Farther e., 2 birds were reported in reclaimed strip mine lands in *Harrison* 22 Jun (SP, DK, Joe Hammond), with one remaining through 28 Jul (SP). Just across the Ohio River, one was in Bethany, *Brooke*, WV 29 Jul (Phil Carter). Extralimital birds were n. to Franklin Twp., *Richland*, OH 23-27 Jul (John Herman) and along Greene Rd., *Crawford*, PA 14 Jun (Thomas Nicolls).

A male **Shiny Cowbird** appeared at backyard feeders 2 Jun in *Adams* (Linette Mansberger). This is the first record for Pennsylvania, but it was not completely unexpected, as a few have appeared in the mid-Atlantic and one as far n. as Nova Scotia. A Western Meadowlark at Big Island W.M.A., *Marion*, OH from the spring period lingered through 15 Jun (SL). A smattering of Red Crossbill records this summer across the Allegheny Plateau suggests the possibility of local breeding. Five were in Clearfield Twp., *Butler* 8 Jun (Mike Fialkovich, Paul Hess), 19 were near Lick Run, *Clearfield* 5 Jun (David Yeany), and one was along Okome Rd., *Lycoming* 18 Jun (Dan Brauning). The Clearfield birds were confirmed as Type 3 Red Crossbills by analysis of recordings of their flight calls by Matt Young at Cornell University. A lone bird appeared within the Oak Openings Metropark, *Lucas*, OH 9 Jun (JBo). Wandering Pine Siskins visited Bethany, *Brooke*, WV (2; Phil Carter) and two *Cuyahoga*, OH locations 9 (JBr) & 15 Jun (Mike Sandy).

Initialed observers: OHIO: Rick Asamoto (RA), Justin Bosler (JBo), Jen Brumfield (JBr), Christopher Collins (CCo), Cory Chiappone (CCh), Laura Keene (LK), Tom Kemp (TK), Donna Kuhn (DK), Steve Landes (SL), Scott Pendelton (SP), Haans Petruschke (HP), Dave Slager (DSr), Gene Stauffer (GSt). PENNSYLVANIA: George L. Armistead, Erik Barber, Timothy Becker, Debbie Beer, Ed Bernot, Adrian Binns, Mary Birdsong, Dan Brauning, Ben Coulter, Kevin Crilley, Amy Davis, Jon DeBalko, Martin Dellwo, Cory DeStein, Roger Donn, Mike Fialkovich, Carl Garner, Al Guarente, Vern Gauthier, Kathy Grim, Doug Gross, Jonathan Heller, Brian Henderson, Paul Hess, Tom Johnson, Ken Lebo, Geoff Malosh, Linette, Mansberger, Jeff McDonald, David McNaughton, Jerry McWilliams, Holly Merker, Nick Pulcinella, Bob Schutsky, Glen Shaffer, Joan Silagy, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass, Frank Windfelder, Matt Young. WEST VIRGINIA: Terry Bronson (TBr), Diane Holsinger (DHo).

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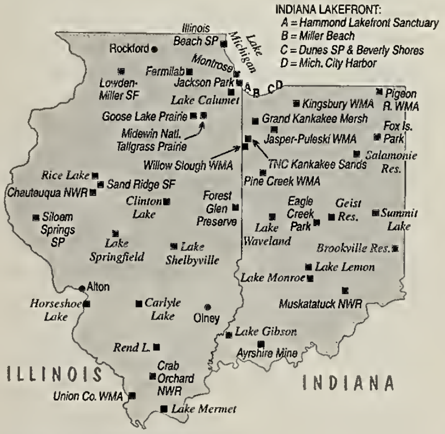
Illinois & Indiana


INDIANA LAKEFRONT:
A = Hammond Lakefront Sanctuary
B = Miller Beach
C = Dunes SP & Beverly Shores
D = Mich. City Harbor
Illinois Beach SP
Lake Michigan
Rockford
Montrose
Fermilab
Lowden-Miller SF
Jackson Park
Lake Calumet
A B C D
Pigeon R. WMA
Kingsbury WMA
Goose Lake Prairie
Grand Kankakee Mersh
Midewin Natl. Tallgrass Prairie
Fox Is. Park
Jasper-Puleski WMA
Salamonie Res.
Willow Slough WMA
TNC Kankakee Sands
Rice Lake
Sand Ridge SF
Pine Creek WMA
Chauteuqua NWR
Forest Glen Preserve
Clinton Lake
Eagle Creek Park
Geist Res.
Summit Lake
Siloam Springs SP
Lake Waveland
Lake Springfield
Lake Shelbyville
Brookville Res.
Lake Lemon
Lake Monroe
Alton
Muskatatuck NWR
Horseshoe Lake
Carlyle Lake
Olney
Lake Gibson
Rend L.
Ayrshire Mine
Crab Orchard NWR
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
Union Co. WMA
Lake Mermet

James D. Hengeveld
Keith A. McMullen
Geoffrey A. Williamson

The Region saw average temperatures in June, but July was rather cool. While June was wet, especially in Indiana where the 16.7 cm of rain was 6.3 cm above the average, July was drier than usual in both states. However, soils retained normal moisture levels after the June rainfall. Records of note included Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Mottled Duck, numerous Neotropic Cormorants, Swallow-tailed Kite, nesting Western Kingbirds in Indiana, and Black-headed Grosbeak.

Abbreviations: Chau. (Chautauqua N.W.R., *Mason*, IL); Dunes (Dunes S.P., *Porter*, IN); Emiquon (Emiquon N.W.R. and The Nature Conservancy's Emiquon Preserve, *Fulton*, IL); F.P. (Forest Preserve); F.W.A. (Fish and Wildlife Area); Goose Pond (Goose Pond F.W.A., *Greene*, IN); Great Lakes (Great Lakes Naval Training Center, *Lake*, IL); Hennepin (Hennepin-Hopper Lake Restoration Area, *Putnam*, IL); Illinois Beach (Illinois Beach S.P., *Lake*, IL); Miller (Miller Beach, *Lake*, IN); Montrose (Montrose Point in Chicago's Lincoln Park).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Two **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** were in Athens, *Menard*, IL 4-7 Jun (KB, ph. BG, PAM). This species has occurred annually in Illinois since 2008. Illinois's first two accepted records were from 2001 and 2003, with most of the sightings, like this year's, during Apr through Jul. A typical assortment of Snow Geese was recorded in Illinois, many with signs of injury; these were joined by a Ross's Goose (injured) at Carlyle Lake, *Clinton*, IL 2 Jun (DMK) and a Snow Goose x Ross's Goose hybrid at Lake Springfield, *Sangamon*, IL 13 Jun (HDB). A large concentration of 515 Wood Ducks was noted at Hennepin 27 Jul (DFS). A **Mottled Duck** in the Mississippi River bottoms of *Monroe*, IL 24 Jun and 28 Jun–1 Jul (ph. DMK, MSS, KAM) resulted in the third straight summer occurrence of the species in Illinois, where there are fewer than 10 accepted records. On 8 Jul, a female Northern Shoveler with 7 young was found in *Cass*, IN (LN, BDo), providing the first breeding record in Indiana since 2005. A male Canvasback on Wolf Lake, *Lake* 12 Jun (CAM) and again 27 Jun and 11 Jul (MK) provided only the second Jun record for Indiana. *Aythya* ducks in general had an above-average presence in the Region, primarily in Illinois, with 3 additional Canvasbacks, 19 Redheads, 12 Ring-necked Ducks, an ad. male Greater Scaup on the Little Calumet River in Chicago 18 Jul (WJM), and 24 Lesser Scaup noted. Quite surprising was Illinois's first Jul record of White-winged Scoter, with 2 females on the Little Calumet River in Chicago 2 Jun–1 Jul with one there 9 Jul (ph. WJM, m.ob.). Two Buffleheads, a female 5 Jun in *Kendall*, IL (ph. ASA) and a male at Hennepin 14 Jun (DFS), were also notable. Providing evidence of nesting was a female Ruddy Duck with 5-6 young at Hennepin 2 Jul (CDH), where 39 were also noted 12 Jul (DFS).

B.B.S. routes in *Marion* 19 Jun and *Clark* and *Crawford* 20 Jun produced 66 and 50 Northern Bobwhites (SDB), respectively, strong totals for Illinois. However, Greater Prairie-Chickens went unreported. Single Common Loons at Miller 5 Jul (MT) and at Patoka Lake in s. Indiana 14 Jul (RC, *fide* AK) were unusual in that both were in breeding plumage. The Eared Grebe at Paul Douglas F.P., *Cook*, IL continued from spring through 2 Jun (SDB, SLD, FRM). Quite unusual was the Western Grebe at Hennepin 16-18 Jun (JAS, m.ob.).

It was a banner season for **Neotropic Cormorants**, with 7 noted. One bird was seen in flight in the Lake Calumet area of Chicago 4, 7, & 30 Jun (†WJM) and probably this bird, an imm., was relocated 1 Jul in nearby Burnham (ph. AG). Lake Springfield, *Sangamon*, IL hosted an imm. 12-23 Jun (HDB) and an ad. 19-20 Jul (ph. HDB). An ad. was found at Hennepin 27 Jun (ph. PAM) and was seen on various dates there through 15 Jul (ph. BM, m.ob.). The fifth of the season was found at Horseshoe Lake, *Madison*, IL 28 Jul (FRH), and 2 were at Goose Pond 30 Jul+ (LWS, AK, KR, m.ob.). The 1200 Double-crested Cormorants at Miller 4 Jul (KJB, JKC, RJP) furnished Indiana's fourth largest summer count. There were no summer reports of Anhingas at the Michael Wolff Wetlands in *Johnson*, IL, where nesting has occurred the past few summers.

Good numbers of wading birds were noted, exemplified by counts from Levee Rd. in *Monroe*, IL of 800 Great Egrets 5 & 10 Jul (DMK) and 400 Little Blue Herons 24 Jun (DMK). The Snowy Egret at Wolf Lake, *Lake*, IN in the spring was joined by another 12 Jul (MT) and 30 Jul (MK). In contrast to last summer, only a single Little Blue Heron was reported in Indiana, in *Franklin* 4 Jul (BD), the lowest total since 2008. A Tricolored Heron, perhaps the same bird that was reported in the spring, was seen at Goose Pond 8 Jun (DR) and again 12 Jun (LWS et al.). An ad. Tricolored Heron at Nygren Wetlands, *Winnebago*, IL 5-7 Jun (DTW, ph. JCL, m.ob.) was also a nice find. Just one Cattle Egret was reported from Indiana, at Goose Pond 30 Jul (KR). The breeding colony of Black-crowned Night-Herons in Chicago's Lincoln Park remained the Region's largest, with 222 active nests and 406 ads. (MM, *fide* WJM).

Three *Plegadis* ibis at Hennepin 17 Jun (KAM) and 3 White-faced Ibis in Spring Lake Twp., *Tazewell* 19 Jun (TH, MJW, KBR) were the only ibis reported in the Region. North of the species' usual range was a Black Vulture at El Paso, *Woodford*, IL 10 Jun (TH). Illinois hosted at least nine Osprey nests, at least six of which produced young. On a survey of Patoka Lake in s. Indiana 24 Jun (AK), 24 Osprey (17 ads., 7 young) were found in nine active nests, providing Indiana's second highest one-day total. Indiana's *Tippecanoe* **Swallow-tailed Kite** from the spring lingered through 6 Jun (LWS, AK, DL et al.). It was a remarkable summer for Mississippi Kites in Indiana, as flocks of 7 and 10 were seen at Columbia Mine, *Pike* 3 (JR) & 14 Jul (LWS, KM), respectively, and 8 were seen soaring overhead at Patoka River N.W.R., *Gibson* 23 Jul (VWW). The tally of 10 tied the high count for Indiana. One female and 2 male Mississippi Kites were present through the season at the Rockford, IL site where successful breeding has taken place the past five summers, but though nest-building and copulation occurred, breeding was not successful (DTW et al.). This is the Region's most northerly nesting location. A Mississippi Kite flying past the Morton Arboretum, *DuPage*, IL 27 Jun (ED, JZ) provided another northerly report. Three female Northern Harriers were present at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, *Jasper*, IL 3 Jun–31 Jul (CLH). At the usual site in Burlington, *Kane*, IL, 2 Swainson's Hawks were observed throughout the period.

Always elusive, Black Rails were detected only by vocalizations, with 2 at Margaret Guzy Pothole Wetlands Land & Water Reserve, *Shelby*, IL 15 Jul (CLH) and one at the Farina wetland, *Fayette*, IL 19 Jun (SDB, TAM et al.). Eight King Rails were reported from the Region. The 2 ad. and 11 young Virginia Rails recorded at Goose Pond 12 Jun (LWS, DA, DRW et al.) represented only the third ever breeding record and largest family group for the s. tier of counties in Indiana. The 500 American Coots at Emiquon 2 Jun (KAM et al.) provided an impressive summer total. A pair of Sandhill Cranes with one colt were noted 14 Jul at Marshall State F.W.A., *Marshall*, IL (TH); no prior nesting has been observed in this area. Other sightings of Sandhill Cranes away from the usual areas in the n. portion of the Region included 2 at Amboy Marsh, *Lee*, IL 26 Jun (DTW), 2 at Hennepin 18 Jun (PAM), and one at Goose Pond 15 (LWS) & 23 Jul (AK).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH PARAKEETS

Black-necked Stilts were widespread in the cen. and s. portions of the Region. Observations from the n. tier, all in Illinois, included a male and female at McKinley Woods F.P., *Will* 15 Jun (ASA), one at Rock Falls, *Whiteside* 17 Jun (DH), 2 at Waltham, *LaSalle* 6-15 Jul (BL, m.ob.), and 2 in *Ogle*, IL 22-27 Jul (DTW, TW). One Black-necked Stilt in nw. *Clay*, IN 22 Jun (JS), with a pair attending at least one young there 20 Jul (PES), provided the first records for the county. A late spring migrant American Avocet passed through *Henry*, IL 2 Jun (MAM), and a fine total of 16 American Avocets from five counties was reported in Indiana, the largest group consisting of 6 at Miller 26 Jul (LS, PM et al.). The season's high was of 13 at Rock Falls, *Whiteside*, IL 8 Jul (DH). On 21 Jul, 4 Piping Plovers were found at Miller (CZ, MR); the only other Piping Plover sighting was of a banded individual at Big Lake, *Brown*, IL 16 Jul (ph. AW). An impressive 1200 Killdeer were counted at Chau. 21 Jul (KAM). Willets were scarce in Indiana, the only inland record consisting of a single at Lake Gibson, *Gibson* 16 Jul (AK). An Upland Sandpiper at the Fort Wayne Airport 1 Jul (E&CP) through 15 Jul (LS, NM, m.ob.) was the first seen in *Allen*, IN in eight years. All 8 of the season's Whimbrels were along Lake Michigan, with singles at Illinois Beach (CAW) and Dunes (BB) 16 Jul the first to arrive. Two individuals passing Montrose 17 Jul (AAA, MD) constituted the only sighting of multiple birds. Marbled Godwits were confined to Emiquon, with 2 there 14 Jul (MJW) and single birds 20 (KBR) & 21 Jul (KAM), and at Miller, with one seen 6 Jul (JKC, SRB, LSH, KJB) and 5 there 18 Jul (JKC).

Indiana's fourth earliest fall Stilt Sandpiper was discovered in *Sullivan* 6 Jul (SL). Indiana's peak count of 8 Stilt Sandpipers was logged at Lake Gibson, *Gibson* 16 Jul (AK), but by contrast the 300 Stilt Sandpipers at Chau. 20-21 Jul (KBR, KAM) demonstrated the capacity of the Illinois River valley to attract shorebirds. The 10 Sanderlings at Chau. 31 Jul (MI) formed a notably large inland group. A Semipalmated Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher at the Amax Coal Company property, *Wabash*, IL 21 Jun (CLH) were likely late spring migrants. The only Western Sandpipers reported were 2 at Big Lake, *Brown*, IL 20 Jul (NS), 2 in *Ogle*, IL 30 Jul (DTW), and one near Whitestown, *Boone*, IN 31 Jul (RLH) that was just the fourth ever for that county. Two to 3 Wilson's Snipe performing display flights at Springbrook Prairie F.P., *DuPage*, IL 15 Jun (JLS), and one seen at Goose Pond throughout the summer suggested breeding at these sites. A male Red-necked Phalarope at Alba, *Henry* 16 Jun (DRH) provided Illinois's latest Jun record ever, with only eight prior Jun records.

At least 3 Laughing Gulls were present at Waukegan, IL 5-6 Jun, with a first-cycle bird and an ad. there 5 Jun (AFS) and 2 first-cycles present 6 Jun (AS). More typical sightings of single birds came from Great Lakes 6 Jun (DRD), Montrose 13 Jun (RDH), Emiquon 15-21 Jul (KAM, MJW), Dunes 19 Jul (BB, ph. PBG), and Brookville Reservoir, *Franklin*, IN 24 Jul (WHB). Sixteen Franklin's Gulls were noted in Illinois, and the highest summer count of Franklin's Gulls ever for the Indiana Lake Michigan lakefront was recorded 29 Jul when 9 ads. were seen at Miller (MT). A first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull at North Point Marina, Winthrop Harbor, *Lake* 18 Jun (BJS), and probably the same bird at Illinois Beach 23 Jun (EWW), was the only "winter" gull observed.

A Least Tern nest with three eggs at Amax Coal Company property, *Wabash*, IL 21 Jun (CLH) was unfortunately lost when the field it was in was re-planted. Also notable for this Endangered subspecies were the first breeding attempts by Least Terns at Goose Pond, where a nesting "island" and decoys have been set up for several years. At least 4 ads., courtship behaviors (including courtship feeding), and nesting behaviors were seen throughout the period (AK, m.ob.). Two nesting attempts by Common Terns at Great Lakes, consisting of 15 and 17 nests with 88 eggs, suffered predation so that no fledged young were produced at this site, Illinois's only nesting colony (DRD, BS).

A White-winged Dove was observed in Chicago 30 Jun (DKA); this species is seemingly now annual in the Region. Black-billed Cuckoos were noted in at least 10 locations, including in Rockford, IL, where one was seen carrying food 18 & 20 Jun (DTW, BCW). A pair of Barn Owls with 3 juvs. were in *Lawrence*, IL 10 Jun (RES, CLH), and an ad. and later a pair with 2 juvs. were observed in *Edwards*, IL 27 Jun+ (RES). Four Barn Owls, thought to be an ad. female and 3 grown young, were observed in a corn crib in *Putnam*, IL 20 Jul (DFS). Chuck-will's-widows n. of their normal summer range included birds at Starved Rock S.P., *LaSalle*, IL 14 Jun (*fide* MMC) and at Siloam Spring S.P., *Brown*, IL 20 Jul (DJM). Vernon M. Kleen banded 226 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in se. *St. Clair*, IL 11 Jul and 155 at Hillsboro, *Montgomery*, IL 13 Jul.

Observers found 9 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at Lost Mound N.W.R., *JoDaviess*, IL 28 Jun (DB, DTW et al.). This location in nw. Illinois is known to harbor this species in summer, but a number this large is not usually tallied. Two other Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted at Port Louisa N.W.R., *Mercer*, IL 17 Jul (DH). Rare summer Merlin sightings included single birds at Meredosia N.W.R., *Morgan*, IL 2 Jun (*fide* DTW) and in *Whiteside*, IL 27 Jul (CAT, TLK). Few active Monk Parakeet nests were noted in the Lake Calumet region of se. Chicago, as power company workers have been removing nests from cell towers and utility poles soon after they are built (WJM). The largest reported total was 15 from Elmhurst, *DuPage*, IL 23 Jul (GP).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Hennepin 18 Jun (PAM) was late to depart the Region. On a trip down the Patoka River, *Pike* 4 Jun (HDH, AK, MB), 75 Acadian Flycatchers were recorded, the second highest one-day total for Indiana. Two Alder Flycatchers at Half Day F.P., *Lake*, IL 17 Jun (BJS) were late, and one heard near Logansport, IN 17 Jun (LN) provided a first summer record for *Cass*. A calling Least Flycatcher at Montrose 31 Jul (MD) was an early fall arrival. Three ad. Western Kingbirds and a nest were noted at East St. Louis, *St. Clair*, IL 9 & 23 Jun (DMK), where the species breeds each summer. Unusual, however, were 4 ad. Western Kingbirds at Havana, *Mason*, IL 6 Jun (JWW) and 11 Jul (KBR), with a female at a nest with 2 young there 21 Jun (KAM). A pair found in Indiana near the Evansville Airport 2 Jul (DC) was seen copulating at a nest on 7 Jul (ES, DC), providing Indiana's sixth breeding record for the species; a second pair was found 2 km from this nest site 7 Jul (ES). Another Western Kingbird was located at Dickson Mounds Museum in *Fulton*, IL 11 Jul (KBR). Breeding by Scissor-tailed Flycatchers was documented at Karnak, *Johnson*, IL, with one bird first located there 5 Jun (MM-L) and a second bird and nest noted by mid-Jun (m.ob.); a nestling was observed 7 Jul (RB), and fledged young were seen 16 Jul (JSc). Two other pairs of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were also seen, both in *Monroe*, IL: on Levee Rd. 7 Jun (C&PD) and on Stringtown Rd. 13 & 28 Jun (DMK, KAM). A male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Havana, *Mason*, IL 2 Jun–26 Jul (KBR, m.ob.).

Some 20 Loggerhead Shrike territories were noted in Illinois, and it was an above-average summer for Loggerhead Shrikes in Indiana, as 13 birds were reported at three locations, a 27 Jul bird (G&LB) providing the first record for *Warrick* since 1983. Rare finds were 3+ singing Bell's Vireos in *Allen* in ne. Indiana between 1 Jun and 15 Jul (JAH, SS, LS et al.), and a nesting pair in n. *St. Joseph*, IN 14 Jun (LS, NM) furnished the county's first nesting record. For the seventh consecutive year, a singing Blue-headed Vireo was found at Pigeon River F.W.A., *LaGrange*, IN (JAH). Quite unusual were two other summer sightings of Blue-headed Vireos: one at Illinois Beach 22 Jun (EWW) and another at Springbrook Prairie F.P., *DuPage*, IL 7 Jul (DFS). Four Fish Crows noted in Springfield, *Sangamon*, IL 5 Jul (HDB) were well outside the species' normal range. An ad. Red-breasted Nuthatch tended a begging fledgling at Big River S.F., *Henderson*, IL 17 Jul (DH). Though likely regular in cypress and tupelo swamps and in the floodplain forests of the major river systems, Brown Creepers often go undetected in the breeding season, making sightings of them significant. In Illinois, a singing male Brown Creeper was at Heron Pond Nature Preserve, *Johnson*, IL 30 Jun (KAM et al.); others were observed at Momence Wetlands, *Kankakee*, IL 8 Jun (GAW et al.), at Mississippi Palisades S.P., *Carroll*, IL 22 Jun (GN), and at Lowden Miller S.F., *Ogle*, IL 6 Jul (DFS). In Indiana, they were seen at three sites in the n. tier and at six sites in the general Indianapolis area, including at Fort Harrison S.P., where 3 birds were seen, including a fledgling being fed by an ad. 15 Jun (BC); in nw. *Monroe*, 2 singing males were noted 11 Jun (BKJ, RS, GK). Very unusual was a singing male Winter Wren at Ryerson C.A., *Lake*, IL 16 Jun (BJS). Sedge Wrens rebounded from low numbers last summer, but totals were still below average. Impressive were the 41 Marsh Wrens at Grant St. Wetland, *Lake* 22 Jun (SRB, JKC, LSH, KJB), Indiana's fourth highest tally. A Bewick's Wren was at the usual location in Siloam Springs S.P., *Adams*, IL 1-2 Jun (TAM et al.) and 20 Jul (DJM).

Two singing Veeries were found 18 Jun at Geist Park, *Hamilton*, IN (NK), well s. of their normal breeding range. Late migrant thrushes included a Swainson's Thrush at Montrose 10 Jun (LGM) and a singing male Hermit Thrush in Chicago 16 Jun (VM). Also late was an American Pipit at Emiquon 1 Jun (KAM et al.). The 19 Louisiana Waterthrushes tallied along the Patoka River, *Pike* 4 Jun (HDH, AK, MB) provided Indiana's fourth highest daily count. A late migrant Golden-winged Warbler was at Spring Lake S.F.W.A., *Tazewell*, IL 5 Jun (KBR). At Potato Creek S.P., *St. Joseph*, IN, a Lawrence's Warbler paired with a Blue-winged Warbler was found 12 Jul (BTh, *fide* MLPR). Noteworthy was a Prothonotary Warbler nest found at Dunes 20 Jun (BB). Single Tennessee Warblers at Franklin Creek State N.A., *Tazewell*, IL 15 Jun (SDB) and at Chicago's Lincoln Park 9 Jun (AFS, RE, JRS), plus a Tennessee Warbler and 2 Nashville Warblers in Chicago's Grant Park 11 Jun (EG), were all late, while a Tennessee Warbler in Chicago's Grant Park 23 Jul (DFS) was likely southbound. Singing Connecticut Warblers 8 Jun at Kankakee F.W.A., *Starke* (JKC, LSH, RJP) and at Evansville, *Vanderburgh* (BT) provided Indiana's third latest records. The 51 Northern Parulas and 25 Yellow-throated Warblers found by the crew floating down the Patoka River, *Pike* 4 Jun (HDH, AK, MB) provided Indiana's third and second highest tallies for the respective species. Chicago's Lincoln Park hosted a Bay-breasted Warbler 5 Jun (GAW et al.) that was surely a late migrant, while the singing male Blackpoll Warbler there 5 Jul (LGM) may have been a wandering summer bird. A Canada Warbler that was heard singing at Kankakee F.W.A., *Starke*, IN 8 Jun (JKC, LSH, RJP) was likely a late migrant.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Four territories of Clay-colored Sparrow were reported from ne. Illinois, while in e. *Elkhart*, IN, a Clay-colored seen throughout Jun including on the 29th (JAH, RR, MW) furnished Indiana's second Jun record. Excellent numbers of Henslow's Sparrows were led by the 36 at Goose Lake Prairie State N.A., *Grundy*, IL 18 Jun–12 Jul (SDB). Late migrant Lincoln's Sparrows were noted at Spring Lake S.F.W.A., *Tazewell*, IL 5 Jun (KBR) and at Chicago's Lincoln Park 7 Jun (LGM). Quite unusual for the southerly location was a singing male Swamp Sparrow in *St. Clair*, IL 5-7 Jun (KAM). A very late White-throated Sparrow was a surprise at Dunes 24 Jun (BJG).

A male **Black-headed Grosbeak** at River Forest, *Cook*, IL 3 Jun (ph. JSA et al.) provided Illinois's eleventh record. A pair of Blue Grosbeaks at O'Brien Lock & Dam in se. Chicago 22 Jun were noted copulating, with the female seen carrying nesting material (WJM). This location has hosted breeding Blue Grosbeaks previously, but the n. latitude remains unusual for the species. However, the number of sightings in far n. Illinois in this and recent years have been above average.

A female Purple Finch at Aurora West F.P., *Kane*, IL 2 Jun (ASA, SAC) and another at Montrose 20 & 27 Jul (DKA) were unusual for the summer period. A group of 20 Red Crossbills were still present at Sand Ridge S.F., *Mason*, IL 2 Jun (KAM, JAS). Pine Siskins were reported from nine Illinois locations and seven different Indiana counties in Jun. Indiana's latest was 25 Jun in *Newton* (DG), but three sites in Illinois hosted siskins in Jul: 4 at the Morton Arboretum, *DuPage* 1 Jul (PAM), one at a feeder in St. Charles, *Kane* 3 Jul (JP), and 2 persisting at Morris, *Grundy* through 5 Jul (BMo).

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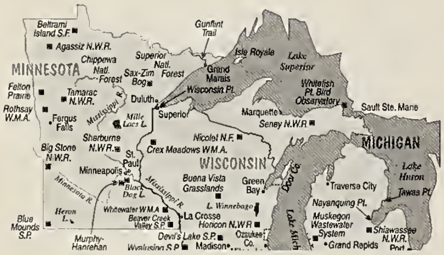
Western Great Lakes


Beltrami Island S.F.
Agassiz N.W.R.
MINNESOTA
Chippewa Natl. Forest
Superior Natl. Forest
Sax-Zim Bog
Gunflint Trail
Isle Royale
Lake Superior
Grand Marais
Wisconsin Pt.
Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory
Sault Ste. Marie
Felton Prairie
Tamarac N.W.R.
Duluth
Superior
Rothsay W.M.A.
Fergus Falls
Mississippi R.
Mille Lacs L.
Marquette
Seney N.W.R.
Sherburne N.W.R.
Nicolet N.F.
Crex Meadows W.M.A.
MICHIGAN
Big Stone N.W.R.
St. Paul
WISCONSIN
Minneapolis
Lake Huron
Minnesota R.
Black Dog L.
Mississippi R.
Buena Vista Grasslands
Green Bay
Door Co.
Traverse City
Tawas Pt.
L. Winnebago
Nayanquing Pt.
Heron L.
Whitewater W.M.A.
Beaver Creek Valley S.P.
La Crosse
Horicon N.W.R.
Lake Mich.
Muskegon Wastewater System
Shiawassee N.W.R.
Blue Mounds S.P.
Murphy-Hanrehan
Devil's Lake S.P.
Wyalusing S.P.
Madison
Ozaukee Co.
Grand Rapids

Peder H. Svingen

Near normal was a welcome relief after several months of below-normal temperatures. Above-average precipitation in June erased lingering concerns about drought. Noteworthy records included Brown Pelican, Long-tailed Jaeger, and Rufous Hummingbird in Minnesota; Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, White Ibis, and Chuck-will's-widow in Wisconsin; and Curlew Sandpiper, Long-tailed Jaeger, Boreal Owl, and successful breeding by a pair of Loggerhead Shrikes in Michigan.

Abbreviations: L.P. (Lower Peninsula of Michigan); Muskegon (Muskegon W.T.P., *Muskegon*, MI); Park Pt. (Park Point, Duluth, *St. Louis*, MN); Pte. Mouillee (Pointe Mouillee S.G.A., *Monroe*, MI); Shiawassee (Shiawassee N.W.R., *Saginaw*, MI); U.P. (Upper Peninsula of Michigan); Whitefish Pt. (Whitefish Point B.O., *Chippewa*, MI); Wisconsin Pt. (Wisconsin Point, *Douglas*, WI).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GALLINULES

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was at Horicon N.W.R. 1 Jun (N. Pope et al.). Most unusual among several reports of lingering Greater White-fronted Geese were s. Minnesota singles in *Kandiyohi* 29 Jun (RAE) and *Scott* 20 Jul (HHD, BA, GL). Reflecting the delayed spring migration were 60 White-winged Scoters at Manistique, *Schoolcraft*, MI 3 Jun, followed by 30 there 4 Jun (CJV). Unseasonable and especially noteworthy away from the Great Lakes was a Long-tailed Duck in *Pennington*, MN 12

Jun (AN). Seven young Bufflehead confirmed Wisconsin's second nesting record by jumping from a nest box at Horicon N.W.R. 18 Jun (JfB). Following record-high numbers staging at Park Pt. this spring, a total of 147 Red-breasted Mergansers there 2 Jun (PHS) was understandable, but 1500 on Lake Huron in *Mackinac*, MI 25 Jun (SH) was extraordinary under any circumstance.

Red-throated Loons at Wisconsin Pt. 10 Jun (PHS), at Duluth, MN 12 Jun (GL), and in *Marquette*, MI 18 Jun (SH) signaled the end of spring migration. Single Horned Grebes photographed at Muskegon 6-17 Jun (KS, MNo) and at Pte. Mouillee 7-21 Jul (MMc, TG) were unusual for Michigan. In Minnesota, a pair of Horned Grebes nested at Agassiz N.W.R. for the first time in many years (GK). Minnesota's only Clark's Grebe was in *Douglas* 29 Jul (RH). Minnesota's fourth **Brown Pelican** was last seen in *Freeborn* 1 Jun (ph. GL). Lending a tropical aura to the Wildlife Drive was an unprecedented total of 816 Great Egrets at Shiawassee 5 Jul (DJP). Single Snowy Egrets were unusually far n. in Michigan 1-2 Jun in *Kent* (continuing from spring; MNo) and *Bay* (AH, SKi). Casual in Wisconsin, a Tricolored Heron was a welcome sight in *Jefferson* 16-26 Jun (SW). Presumably the same ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron returned to the Detroit Zoo for the third consecutive year 1-8 Jun (p.a., JSt, EL). **White Ibis** in *Kenosha* 6-11 Jun (SF) and *Brown* 18 Jul (TP) furnished Wisconsin's third and fourth records. Michigan reported a Glossy Ibis at Pte. Mouillee 7-21 Jul (p.a., MMc, AMB, ST, m.ob.) and a White-faced Ibis in *Lenawee* 4 Jun (TW, KO). Following its recent status change from casual migrant to regular in Minnesota, summer reports of White-faced Ibis have increased, as demonstrated by singles in *Blue Earth* 1 Jun (ph. DWK) and *Big Stone* 8 Jun (DLP), plus 8 birds at Felton Prairie 6-7 Jun (ph. RMD). Wisconsin D.N.R. reported a *Plegadis* ibis at Horicon N.W.R. 1 Jun. Broad-winged Hawks normally continue past Michigan migration hotspots well into Jun, but a stream of 374 at Whitefish Pt. on 25 Jun was a high number for that period (MAK). Rough-legged Hawks occasionally linger into early summer in our Region; many of these are juvs., as with Michigan's light morph at Brockway Mountain, *Keweenaw* 15 Jun (CB). Only one Yellow Rail was reported from Michigan's traditional location at Seney N.W.R. (DM).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Black-bellied Plover in breeding plumage at Duluth, MN 1 Jul (EBr) was probably still northbound. Also northbound was the Piping Plover at Duluth 1 Jun (TA). Wisconsin hosted a Piping Plover in *Brown* 1-10 Jun (TP) and 3 in *Marinette* 4 Jun (JC, MH). In Wisconsin, Black-necked Stilts nested at Horicon N.W.R. for the third time in four years; the pair at Shiawassee lingered through 14 Jun but apparently did not breed (DJP, m.ob.). American Avocets graced six Michigan and eight Wisconsin counties, including 11 fall migrants in *Allegan*, MI 17 Jul (RBr, CSc). Unusually high numbers of Willets in Michigan included 35 in *Berrien* 8 Jul (LRK). Whimbrels were northbound in Michigan and Wisconsin through 13 & 16 Jun, respectively, followed by an early southbound migrant in Marquette, MI 21 Jul (CP). The Region's only Hudsonian Godwit was at Shiawassee 18 Jun (DJP). Michigan also had single Marbled Godwits in two *Berrien* locations, plus 3 at Pte. Mouillee 25 Jun (MNo). A Red Knot was southbound in *Allegan*, MI 26 Jul (RBr, m.ob.). A total of 360 Sanderlings at Park Pt. 1 Jun established Minnesota's third highest northbound count (PHS). The star of this season's shorebird retinue was Michigan's fifteenth Curlew Sandpiper in *Allegan*, MI 25-26 Jul (RBr, m.ob.). Single Buff-breasted Sandpipers showed up in Wisconsin in *Dane* 21-26 Jul (AHo) and *Racine* 28-29 Jul (SF).

In Wisconsin, up to 4 imm. Little Gulls in *Sheboygan* 2-6 Jun (SL) were joined by an ad. 7 Jun (AA); singles were also found in *Door* 6-18 Jun (JSw) and *Kewaunee* 15 Jun (ASi). Michigan's only Laughing Gull visited *Ottawa* 17 Jul (CSc). In Wisconsin, one from spring was joined by a second ad. in *Sheboygan* 1-15 Jun (MBo, CS, JSo, TP), while a subad. wandered around *Manitowoc* 7 Jun (RD) and 2-5 Jul (CSo). Single Franklin's Gulls strayed to three Michigan locations, including *Berrien* 3 Jul (PCC), Ludington S.P. 4 Jul (DCD), and Lake St. Clair Metropark, *Macomb* 6 Jul (MM, JSn). Furnishing Minnesota's first summer record was an imm. Iceland Gull in *St. Louis* 10 Jun (ph. PHS). Minnesota's tenth **Long-tailed Jaeger** was inland and unseasonable at Roseau W.M.A. 14 Jun (ph. AN). Providing Michigan's third summer record and twenty-fifth overall was a subad. Long-tailed Jaeger in *Delta* 31 Jul (p.a., JDK); a second jaeger there was unidentified (CJV, JDK).

Wisconsin's twelfth White-winged Dove was in *Wood* 9 Jun (GSt). A pair of Northern Hawk Owls successfully nested in *Lake*, MN (SGW). Inexplicable was the ad. Boreal Owl banded at Whitefish Pt. 2 Jul (CN, NM); Michigan has no previous Jul records. Wisconsin's **Chuck-will's-widow** on the *Jefferson/Walworth* line vocalized through 23 Jun (JM), but the reliable *Jackson* bird was not detected in summer after returning this spring for the ninth consecutive year. Minnesota's first Rufous Hummingbird since 1999 visited a feeder in Duluth 24-26 Jul (JL, ph. JJ). A pair of American Three-toed Woodpeckers successfully nested in *Lake*, MN (MSS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

For the second consecutive summer, Gibbons and his WINGS tour group found an Acadian Flycatcher in *Otter Tail*, MN 10 Jun; it sang on territory through 21 Jul (BG et al.). All three states recorded Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Minnesota reported one in *Cook* 2-3 Jun (TPe, BP), Wisconsin had Scissor-taileds in *Marathon* 2 Jun (KM) and *Marinette* 6 Jun (JC), and Michigan had one in *Alger* 18 Jul (SCH). Easterly was a Western Kingbird in *Delta*, MI 10 Jun (SCH). Loggerhead Shrikes in five Wisconsin counties included a nesting pair with 2 young in *Portage* (m.ob.). Providing Michigan's first breeding record since 2001 was a pair of Loggerheads with 4-6 young in *Luce* (p.a., *fide* LJD). Noteworthy for Minnesota was a White-eyed Vireo in *Rice* 19-20 Jun (TFB, DBM). Bell's Vireos in eight Minnesota counties included the first for *Kandiyohi* 15-28 Jun (RSF). Northern Mockingbirds were scattered across 12 Wisconsin locations, and in Minnesota, they were as far n. as *Polk* 6 Jun (RPR), Park Pt. 2-11 Jun (JLK, PHS), and three *Cook* locations (m.ob.). An American Pipit in *Bayfield* 3 Jun (LE) tied Wisconsin's second latest northbound date.

In Michigan, a pair of Worm-eating Warblers plus another singing male were detected at Allegan S.G.A., *Allegan*, where a male was on territory last year (RBr, CSc). Unusually far n. in Minnesota was a Blue-winged Warbler in *Cass* 18 Jun (BAW). Minnesota's only Kentucky Warbler sang in *Ramsey* 11-18 Jun (JSe, MJM, JZ, PK); this species barely maintains its regular status in the Gopher State. Preliminary census data revealed 2004 singing male Kirtland's Warblers in Michigan, down from last year's record high of 2060, but still higher than any previous year since monitoring began (*fide* MP). In Wisconsin, nine pairs produced 13 young in *Adams*, and a nesting attempt failed in *Marinette*; the only other report was one in *Douglas* (*fide* JTr). An unmated Prairie Warbler in *Waukesha*, WI through 4 Jul (ASz) was probably the same male returning for the fourth consecutive year; another was in *La Crosse* 9 Jun (JTh). Away from expected Michigan locations in wooded dunes along Lake Michigan were single Prairie Warblers in *Crawford* and *Washtenaw*, plus one in *Chippewa* 16-17 Jul (GB). Providing a rare mid-summer record for Wisconsin was a Wilson's Warbler in *Portage* 30 Jun (AD). Presumably southbound and thus record early was a Blackburnian Warbler in *Hennepin*, MN 4 Jul (DD). Casual in Minnesota, a Yellow-throated Warbler at Carley S.P. 27 Jun (RBJ) was the first for *Wabasha*, while another from spring continued through summer in *Winona* (ph. DAC, m.ob.). Minnesota's only Yellow-breasted Chat was found in *Fillmore* 8 Jun (SKa).

Spotted Towhee was found for the second consecutive summer in *Clay* 7 Jul (MO). Rarely found in ne. Minnesota during summer, single Vesper Sparrows at the Pagami Burn in *Lake* 25

Jun and 1 Jul (SGW) were probably responding to habitat succession. White-crowned Sparrows are no longer surprising in summer at Whitefish Pt., but one repeatedly caught in a cowbird trap in a Kirtland's Warbler management area in *Crawford* through 7 Jun raised eyebrows (CG). A White-crowned in *Door* 29 Jul (TF) was unexpected but not unprecedented for Wisconsin. Henslow's Sparrow numbers and distribution were relatively normal in Michigan; unlike last year, they were not found in the U.P. Henslow's Sparrows in 31 Minnesota counties included a first county record in *Benton* 1 Jul (HHD). Providing another county first was a Nelson's Sparrow in *Koochiching*, MN 17 Jun (DBM).

In Michigan, Summer Tanager(s) spent the summer at Warren Dunes S.P., *Berrien* for the fourth consecutive year. The only other Regional report was an ad. male in *Aitkin*, MN 6 Jun (JdB). Continuing from spring were male Blue Grosbeaks in *Cass*, MI throughout summer (JTW, m.ob.) and *Sauk*, WI through 16 Jun (DS); elsewhere in Wisconsin, a female was photographed in *Iowa* 26 Jun (GH). A second-year male Lazuli Bunting was thoroughly documented at Duluth, MN 6-7 Jun (PKD, ph. KRE, DOK, ph. PHS). Dickcissel numbers were back to "normal" following last year's major irruption. Crossbills were scarce across the Region after a flock of 46 Red Crossbills disappeared from *Langlade*, WI 8 Jun (DJ). A female Common Redpoll lingered at a feeder in *Vilas*, WI until 6 Jun (EBe); the Badger State does have a mid-summer record from 27 Jun 1973.

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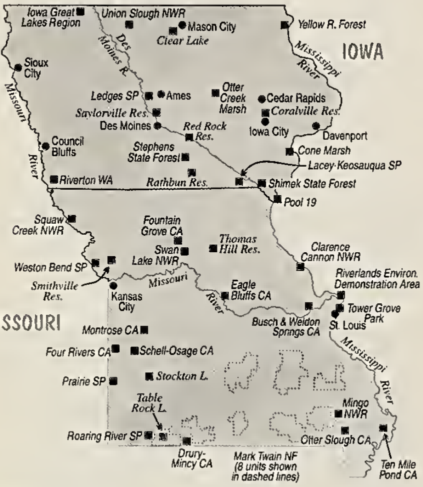
Iowa & Missouri


Iowa Great Lakes Region
Union Slough NWR
Mason City
Clear Lake
Yellow R. Forest
IOWA
Des Moines R.
Mississippi River
Sioux City
Missouri River
Ledges SP
Ames
Otter Creek Marsh
Cedar Rapids
Saylorville Res.
Coralville Res.
Des Moines
Red Rock Res.
Iowa City
Davenport
Council Bluffs
Stephens State Forest
Cone Marsh
Lacey-Keosauqua SP
Riverton WA
Rathbun Res.
Shimek State Forest
Pool 19
Squaw Creek NWR
Fountain Grove CA
Thomas Hill Res.
Swan Lake NWR
Clarence Cannon NWR
Weston Bend SP
Missouri River
Riverlands Environ. Demonstration Area
Smithville Res.
Kansas City
Eagle Bluffs CA
Tower Grove Park
MISSOURI
Busch & Weldon Springs CA
St. Louis
Montrose CA
Four Rivers CA
Schell-Osage CA
Mississippi River
Prairie SP
Stockton L.
Table Rock L.
Mingo NWR
Roaring River SP
Otter Slough CA
Drury-Mincy CA
Mark Twain NF (8 units shown in dashed lines)
Ten Mile Pond CA

James J. Dinsmore

After the devastating drought of 2012, excessive precipitation during the first five months of 2013 returned both states to more normal conditions. Temperatures and precipitation in Iowa in June were both close to normal levels but generally without the extremes of recent years. June precipitation was slightly above normal and, for the first time since August 2011, Iowa was rated drought-free. Only parts of northeastern Iowa had excessive rainfall and flooding. July was cool and dry, with temperatures about one degree F below average. In was especially cool at the end of July, when temperatures reached the low 40s and numerous all-time low temperature records were set. It was the ninth driest July on record with rainfall 6 cm (2.7 inches) below average. It was especially dry in the southwestern half of Iowa, where it appeared that Iowa was heading into another drought.

Temperatures in Missouri generally were cooler in the first half of June and warmer in the second half but overall were close to average for the state. Overall precipitation in June was normal, but it was fairly wet in east-central, southeast, and west-central Missouri and quite dry in southwestern and parts of northwestern Missouri, with southwestern Missouri in particular having great local variation in rainfall. July was cooler than normal, especially at the end of the month. More normal temperatures were experienced in mid-July. Precipitation was lower in the northern half of the state and higher in the southern half, as the northern half of Missouri began experiencing drought conditions. Again, southwestern Missouri had great local variation in precipitation totals, with some areas receiving more than 25 cm (10 inches) of rain.

Regional highlights were Tricolored Heron, Whimbrel, a Black-headed Gull hybrid, *Selasphorus* hummingbird, Prairie Warbler, nesting American Avocets and Herring Gulls, and a wandering Greater Prairie-Chicken.

Abbreviations: Clarence Cannon (Clarence Cannon N.W.R., *Pike*, MO); Clinton spoil islands (spoil islands in Mississippi River, *Clinton*, IA); Columbia Bottom (Columbia Bottom C.A., *St. Louis*, MO); Eagle Bluffs (Eagle Bluffs C.A., *Boone*, MO); Four Rivers (Four Rivers C.A., *Vernon/Bates*, MO); Hawkeye (Hawkeye W.A., *Johnson*, IA); MidAmerican ponds (MidAmerican Energy Ponds, *Pottawattamie*, IA); Otter Slough (Otter Slough C.A., *Stoddard*, MO);

R.M.B.S. (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, *St. Charles*, MO); Saylorville (Saylorville Reservoir, *Polk*, IA); Shimek (Shimek S.F., *Lee*, IA); Squaw Creek (Squaw Creek N.W.R., *Holt*, MO); Trumbull Lake (Trumbull Lake, *Clay*, IA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

Lingering waterfowl were common in both states, with a Cinnamon Teal at Squaw Creek 2 Jun (MR) the best find. Others included up to 20 Snow Geese in *Buchanan*, MO 2 Jun–14 Jul (MR, Paul Habiger), 41 Gadwalls at Squaw Creek 2 Jun (MR), up to 4 American Wigeons at Squaw Creek 3-20 Jun (DW, MR, TG, LO), 100 Blue-winged Teal at Four Rivers 1 Jun (SK), 20 Northern Shovelers and 10 Northern Pintails at Otter Slough 16 Jun (GS), one Northern Pintail in *Louisa*, IA 4 Jun (MSIM), single Canvasbacks in *Dickinson*, IA 7 Jun (MSIM) and at R.M.B.S. 6 Jul (Lee Sterrenburg, Kathy McClain), 35 Redheads in *Palo Alto*, IA 30 Jun (SJD), 2 Buffleheads in *Dickinson*, IA 2 Jun (LAS), and single Common Mergansers at Saylorville 17 Jul (MSIM) and *Lafayette*, MO 17 Jul (BC, KA).

Iowa's Northern Bobwhite populations remained about the same as in recent years. with birds mainly confined to s. Iowa (Iowa Department of Natural Resources). After population increases in 2012, both Gray Partridge and Ring-necked Pheasant populations in Iowa again declined to nearly record-low levels, a decline attributed to a wet, cold spring and late snowstorm. A Ruffed Grouse was heard in *Winneshiek* in ne. Iowa 6 Jun (TH), where a small population remains. Greater Prairie-Chickens in Missouri included one at Taberville Prarie C.A., *St. Clair* 4 Jun and 5 at Wah'kon-tah Prairie, *St. Clair* 6 Jun (Josh Smith) in Missouri and two broods at Kellerton W.A., *Ringgold*, IA (SS). A wandering Greater Prairie-Chicken, originally trapped in Nebraska and released in *Ringgold*, IA in Apr, received widespread news coverage. The bird was equipped with a GPS tracker and made three loops southward into Missouri, each followed by a return to Iowa, moving as far s. as St. Joseph, MO and n. to near Des Moines, IA. In all, it traveled more than 1850 km and eventually settled in *Union* in sw. Iowa. Historically, Greater Prairie-Chickens commonly migrated in fall but the distance that this bird traveled made it clear that the species has great dispersal ability which it could use to find and settle into the increasingly scattered pockets of suitable habitat that typify its former range in the two states.

Common Loons included singles mostly in Jun in *Mississippi* and *Clay* in Missouri (JU, MPa, DW) and one or 2 at six Iowa sites (JFo, MPr, SJD). Eared Grebe reports in Iowa included 5 in *Sioux* 12 Jun and 2 courting in *Greene* 16 Jun (SJD). The only Western Grebe report was of 2 in *Wright*, IA 18 Jun (SJD). Double-crested Cormorants nested at three colonies in Iowa: 73 nests at High Lake, *Emmet* (LAS), 663 nests and 422 young at the Clinton spoil islands (SJD), and 84 ads. at Red Rock Reservoir *Marion* (SJD). The American White Pelican colony on the Clinton spoil islands had 1300 ads. and 745 young 1 Jul (SJD). A few summered in both states, but 1595 at Clarence Cannon (C&JM) and about 2000 at Hawkeye, both 26 Jul (JFo), indicated migration was underway.

This Tricolored Heron, a rare find for Missouri, was at Four Rivers Conservation Area, Vernon County 17 June (here) through 11 July 2013. *Photograph by Susan Nixon.*

This American Avocet nest photographed 12 June 2013 at Trumbull Lake, Clay County, Iowa represented the first nesting record for the the Iowa & Missouri region. Two pairs were present 1 June, but only a single pair was present on 12 June. *Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.*

Bitterns were widely reported in both states, with American Bitterns found in 10 Iowa and two Missouri counties and Least Bitterns in six and nine counties, respectively (m.ob.). Great Egret counts were 400+ at Fountain Grove C.A., *Linn/Livingston* 9 Jul (SK), 800 at Four Rivers 11 Jul (DW), and 566 at Columbia Bottom 25 Jul (JM) in Missouri, and 525 ads. and 303 nests at Clinton spoil islands 1 Jul (SJD). Southern herons in Missouri included 25 Snowy Egrets at R.M.B.S. 30 Jun and 6 at Four Rivers 18 Jul (GS); 12 Little Blue Herons at Squaw Creek 18 Jun (Charlotte Ross), 16 were at Four Rivers 20 Jun (DW), and 91 were at Columbia Bottom 20 Jul (C&JM). A rare **Tricolored Heron** was at Four Rivers 17 Jun–11 Jul (ph. SN, DW). Iowa had single Snowy Egrets in *Dubuque* 8 Jun (Charles Winterwood) and *Greene* 22 Jun (SJD), plus nine reports of Cattle Egrets, mostly in Jun, with 12 at Hawkeye 1 Jun (JFo) and 12 in *Johnson* 6 Jun (JFu) the most. Six ads. and a nest were at the Clinton spoil islands 1 Jul (SJD). The only Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were up to 6 at Riverton W.A., *Fremont*, IA 5 & 20 Jul (KD). White-faced Ibis reports were 43 at Squaw Creek 2 Jun (MR) and 18 there 20 Jun (LO), one at Eagle Bluffs 17 Jun (KA) and, in Iowa, 25 in *Kossuth* 18 Jun (Vince Evelsizer, *fide* SJD) and one in *Clay* 7 Jul (LAS).

OSPREY THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Iowa's 14 successful Osprey nests produced 28 young, totals similar to those in 2012 (PS). An Osprey nest in *Dade*, MO produced 2 young (Greg Swick, CB). Mississippi Kites were in seven Missouri counties as far n. as Swan Lake N.W.R., *Chariton*, MO (Amara Weiss, m.ob.) with counts of 16 in *Dunklin* 6 Jul (Timothy Jones) and 10 in *Jasper* 26 Jul (Rick Tucker), and a nest in *Jasper* (Lawrence Herbert). Iowa's Mississippi Kites included a nest at Ottumwa, *Wapello* (JFo), several reports from Des Moines (JB, Bob Cecil, Doug Harr), and one at Ames, *Story* 26 Jun (ph. Ken Platt). Bald Eagle nests in Iowa totaled about 300, the same as in 2012. With nests found in *Crawford*, *Ida*, and *Madison*, 95 of Iowa's 99 counties have nests (SS). The 8 Bald Eagles at Swan Lake N.W.R., *Chariton*, MO 18 Jun were mostly juvs., unusual for this location and date (SK). Northern Harriers were in both states, with five reports from Missouri and seven from Iowa. Other than 2 in *Clay*, IA 15 Jun (LAS), all were singles with no mention of nesting (m.ob.). Missouri had reports of single Sharp-shinned Hawks in six counties, all s. of the Missouri River (m.ob.). The Region's only Swainson's Hawks were all in Missouri, with 10 reports of singles mostly from traditional strongholds in *Greene* and *Webster* (Andrew Kinslow, GS et al.).

Up to 3 Virginia Rails were in *Greene*, *Cerro Gordo*, and *Wright*, IA (SJD, MSIM). Missouri Soras included 2 in *Boone* 1 Jun (Grant Connette, Katie LaJeunesse) and one at Squaw Creek 5 & 21 Jul (Edward Allen, Don Merz). Iowa had singles in *Greene* 10 Jun (DT) and *Cerro Gordo* 26 Jun (MSIM). Both states had unusually large concentrations of American Coots, with 300 at Squaw Creek 17 Jun (DW), 154 at Goose Lake, *Greene*, IA 16 Jun (SJD), and 1500 at Eagle Lake W.A., *Hancock*, IA 30 Jun (SJD). Sandhill Cranes showed evidence of range expansion in both states, with 2 ads. and 2 colts in *Boone*, MO 3 Jun (Greg Leonard), up to 3 at Squaw Creek 2 Jun–21 Jul (m.ob.), 9 at Eagle Bluffs 20 Jul (Kevin Wehner), and 2 ads. on 10 Jun and 2 juvs. 31 Jul in *Johnson*, MO

(LO). A pair in *Palo Alto* 1 Jun (LAS), a nest in *Mitchell* in early Jun (PH), and a pair with a colt at Anderson Lake, *Hamilton* 17 Jun (SJD) were at the edge of the species' Iowa range. The most was 12 including 2 young at traditional stronghold Otter Creek Marsh, *Tama* 19 Jul (JF).

Few northbound shorebirds were found. A **Whimbrel** and 725 White-rumped Sandpipers were both at Squaw Creek 2 Jun (MR). Other late northbound birds in Missouri included an American Avocet at Squaw Creek 2-5 Jun (MR, DW, Lisa Owens), a Solitary Sandpiper at Columbia Bottom 2 Jun (WR, JE), a Ruddy Turnstone and 2 Short-billed Dowitchers at Otter Slough 1 Jun (JU), 7 Sanderlings at Lake Contrary, *Buchanan*, MO plus 2 at Squaw Creek 2 Jun (MR), and 4 Wilson's Phalaropes at Columbia Bottom 2 Jun (WR, JE). Iowa had few late northbound shorebirds, with a Willet in *Clay* 2 Jun (LAS) the most notable.

As usual, there were few reports of nesting shorebirds. Two Black-necked Stilts were at R.M.B.S. 2 & 21 Jun (WR, C&JM), 21 at Otter Slough 16 Jun (GS), and 4 at Pershing S.P., *Linn*, MO 1 Jul (SK), but no one mentioned specific evidence of nesting. Iowa's first summer-season Black-necked Stilts since 2009 were singles in *Kossuth* 5 Jun (MCK), in *Tama* 23-25 Jun (m.ob.), and one or 2 in *Hardin* 11 & 28-29 Jul (TS, MPr). Two pairs of **American Avocets** at Trumbull Lake, *Clay* 1 Jun (LAS) were courting, and a nest with eggs was found there 12 Jun (ph. SJD), Iowa's and the Region's first. The nest failed, but 2-3 avocets remained there through 27 Jul (LAS). Elsewhere, one was at Hawkeye 28 Jun and 13 Jul (JFo), 6 were in *Tama* 19 Jul (JFo), and 2 were in *Linn* 23 Jul (JFo). Four ads. and 2 large Piping Plover chicks were at their usual MidAmerican ponds nesting site 10 Jul (SJD). Upland Sandpipers were found in six Missouri and 12 Iowa counties (m.ob.); the most was 24 at Dunn Ranch, *Harrison*, MO 26 Jun (TG). Seldom reported in summer, one or 2 American Woodcocks were found in seven Iowa counties (SJD, Mark Brown, MSIM), probably indicating nesting at all of those sites. A male and 2 female Wilson's Phalaropes and a nest with eggs were in *Kossuth* 10 Jun (Erich Gilbert, *fide* SJD).

The first southbound shorebirds arrived in late Jun, but the migration was lackluster, with no large flocks reported. Some of the better finds were a Piping Plover at Clarence Cannon 20 Jul (Allen Smith, C&JM), 80 Greater Yellowlegs in *Webster*, MO 26 Jul (GS), single Willets at Eagle Bluffs 10 Jul (Nicholas March) and at Saylorville 13 Jul (SJD), 2 Willets in *Webster*, MO 26 Jul (GS), a Ruddy Turnstone and 3 Sanderlings at Clarence Cannon 27 Jul (JU), single Sanderlings at Saylorville 17 Jul (SJD) and at MidAmerican ponds 31 Jul (MPr), 45 Baird's Sandpipers in *Webster*, MO 26 Jul (GS), 3 Buff-breasted Sandpipers in *Hardin*, IA 22 Jul (TS), one at Hawkeye 26 Jul (JFo), and one in *Greene*, MO 31 Jul (GS), single Western Sandpipers at Saylorville 17 Jul (ph SJD), at R.M.B.S. 21 Jul (WR), and at Clarence Cannon 27 Jul (JU), and a record-high 139 Short-billed Dowitchers at Trumbull Lake 27 Jul (LAS).

GULLS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Laughing Gulls, all singles in Missouri, were an ad. at Smithville Lake, *Clay* 1 Jun (Keith Brink) and an imm. there 13-17 Jun (ph. DW); an ad. was at R.M.B.S. 19 Jun (Lane Richter). The 12,000 Franklin's Gulls at Trumbull Lake 27 Jul (LAS) was a huge count for that date. On 12 Jun the Ring-billed Gull colony near Spirit Lake, *Dickinson*, IA had 340 ads. and 61 nests (SJD), and an apparent **Black-headed Gull** x **Ring-billed Gull hybrid** (ph. SJD). A pair with a chick at the Clinton spoil islands 1 Jul constituted Iowa's third Herring Gull nesting record (SJD). The Least Tern colony at MidAmerican ponds had 22 ads. and five nests 10 Jul (SJD), above-average totals. In Missouri, 18 Least Terns were near the nesting barge at R.M.B.S. 2 Jun (WR, JE), and the 10 seen in *Lincoln* 13 Jul (C&JM) were thought to be post-breeding birds. The 225 Black Terns at Squaw Creek 2 Jun (MR) was a high count for late migrants, as was the 94 at Clarence Cannon 26 Jul (CM) for southbound birds. Nesting Black Terns were found in *Dickinson* and *Hancock*, IA in Jun (SJD). The only Common Terns were 2 at R.M.B.S. 2 Jun (WR).

Black-billed Cuckoos continued to be hard to find, with singles in seven Iowa counties (m.ob.) and in *Boone*, MO 12 Jul (Paul McKenzie, Radiance Abdelkader). Single Greater Roadrunners were in *Barry*, *Greene*, *McDonald*, *Taney*, and *Webster* (m.ob.), all in the usual sw. Missouri range. Evidence of Barn Owl nesting came from *Decatur*, *Monona*, *Ringgold*, and *Washington*, IA (BE) and *Cape Girardeau*, MO (JU, MPa), typical of recent years. Both states had high counts of Chuck-will's-widows: 33 in *Barry*, MO 9 Jun (SN, DW) and 16 in *Fremont*, IA 18 Jun (KD). The 22 Eastern Whip-poor-wills calling in *Ringgold*, IA 6 Jul (SJD) made a high count. A *Selasphorus* hummingbird was found at Republic, *Greene*, MO 31 Jul (ph. Melinda McCubbins). In Iowa, 13 successful Peregrine Falcon nests produced 31 young, about the same as in 2012 (PS). One or 2 Peregrines were found in five Missouri counties (m.ob.), all in urban areas.

Late flycatchers were single Olive-sided Flycatchers in *Greene*, MO 3 Jun (Dorothy Thurman) and in *Floyd*, *Chickasaw*, and *Story*, IA 6 Jun (P&RA, WO), a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in *Kossuth* 1 Jun (MCK), and single Alder Flycatchers as late as 3 Jun in *St. Louis*, MO (JU, MPa, Chris Brown) and 12 Jun in *Clay*, IA (SJD). Least Flycatchers were found in seven ne. and n.-cen. Iowa counties (m.ob.), where they likely nest. Western Kingbirds in *Greene* and *St. Louis* were at the edges of the species' Missouri range (CB, PL). Western Kingbirds continued in *Polk* in cen. Iowa (JB, DT, RLC), while one in *Marion* 31 Jul (Therese Cummiskey) was unexpected. With nests in *St. Charles* and *Gentry* (PL, Terry McNeely) and reports from *Bollinger* and *Franklin*, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers continued their range expansion in nw., e., and se. Missouri (JU, MPa, PL, A. Kirkpatrick). Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were in *Polk* 7 Jun (MSIM) and *Fremont* 17 Jun (JFu), the fourth summer in the past five that the species has been found in Iowa.

One of three Laughing Gulls found in Iowa and Missouri in summer 2013, this immature was at Smithville Lake, Clay County, Missouri 13-17 (here 17) June. *Photograph by Doug Willis.*

Loggerhead Shrike numbers continued to dwindle in Iowa, with one or 2 in only four counties (m.ob.). In Missouri, reports came from 14 counties (m.ob.), suggesting that they are doing better there. Three Bell's Vireos in *Cape Girardeau*, MO 4 Jun (MH) and one at Otter Slough 11 Jun GS) were se. of their usual range. An ad. Black-billed Magpie was on a nest at its traditional nesting site in *Plymouth*, IA 12 Jun (SJD). The Region's only Red-breasted Nuthatch was one in *Ida*, IA 7 Jun (P&RA). Brown Creepers were reported in *Allamakee*, *Jones*, and *Winneshiek*, IA (MSIM), where they likely nest.

Four Sedge Wrens at Dunn Ranch, *Harrison*, MO 8 Jun (SK, June Newman) was the southernmost June report, and one in *Linn*, MO 23 Jul (SK) was the first indication of a late summer southward shift. Marsh Wrens in *St. Louis*, *St. Charles*, and *Phelps*, MO (m.ob.) were south of their usual range. With about 25 reports from 14 Missouri counties, Bewick's Wren was more widely reported than usual (m.ob.). All were s. of the Missouri River. Veeries were found in eight counties in ne. and n.-cen. Iowa where they nest (CRE, Rita Goranson, MSIM). The only Swainson's Thrush was at Creve Coeur, *St. Louis*, MO 3 Jun (JU). The 250 Cedar Waxwings at Little Creve Coeur Marsh, *St. Louis*, MO 2 Jun (David Rogles) was a high count.

WARBLERS THROUGH SISKINS

Late migrants included a Tennessee Warbler in *Boone* 17 Jun (MSIM), Mourning Warbler in *Linn* 5 Jun (JFo), and Yellow-rumped Warbler in *Guthrie* 30 Jun (ph. Kevin Gerety), all in Iowa, and a Canada Warbler at Creve Coeur, *St. Louis*, MO 3 Jun (JU). Worm-eating Warblers continued in se. Iowa, with singles at Shimek 8-29 Jun (CRE, RLC, JB) and in *Davis* 17 Jun (CRE). The only Swainson's Warblers were one 8 Jun and 3 on 30 Jun at Ozark National Scenic Riverways, *Shannon*, MO (JU, Brandon Miller, Linda Makielski) and one at Roaring River S.P., *Barry*, MO 10 Jun (SN, DW). The 12 Black-and-white Warblers and 32 American Redstarts at Powder Mill Trail, *Shannon* 8 Jun were good counts for Missouri (JU). A Black-and-white Warbler in *Wapello*, IA 29 Jun (JB) was unexpected. Away from Iowa's Mississippi River lowlands, one or 2 Prothonotary Warblers were found in *Butler* 11 Jun (TH), *Hardin* 11 Jun (MPr), and *Wright* 3 Jul (SJD). Three at Squaw Creek 2 Jun (MR) were near the limits of the species' usual Missouri range. A Kentucky Warbler in *Kossuth* 15 Jun (MCK) and a Hooded Warbler at Neal Smith N.W.R., *Jasper* 7 Jun (Karen Vista-Sparkman) were both far from their usual e. Iowa range. Most Iowa reports of Cerulean Warbler came from Yellow River S.F., *Allamakee*, which was recognized as a Globally Significant Important Bird Area for its Cerulean Warbler population, and from Shimek (m.ob.). In se. Iowa, Pine Warblers were again in *Lee* 8-29 Jun (CRE, JFu et al.) and *Van Buren* 8 Jun (CRE). They nested at the *Lee* site in 2012. Single **Prairie Warblers** at Shimek 4-22 Jun (†John Rutenbeck, †CRE, JFu) and *Davis* 15 Jun (†AB) were Iowa's first summer reports since 2007.

Clay-colored Sparrows were found in *Dickinson*, *Emmet*, and *Palo Alto* in nw. Iowa, where they seem to be established (MSIM, Jacob Newton). Henslow's Sparrows were found in seven Missouri and 14 Iowa counties, about typical (m.ob.). The most was 26 in *Newton*, MO 14 Jun (Jeff Cantrell). The only White-throated Sparrow was one in *Perry*, MO 20 Jun (MH). Missouri had more Painted Bunting reports than usual. Up to 4 were found in *Barry*, *Dade*, *Greene*, *Stone*, and *Taney* in sw. Missouri, where expected (m.ob.). Singles in *Henry* 15 Jun (SK, Brent Galliart) and *Benton* 21-24 Jul (KA, BC, Marge Lumpe) in w.-cen. Missouri were n. of typical range. Blue Grosbeak's range continues to expand in Iowa. Birds in *Osceola*, *Cherokee*, and *Cass* (SJD, DB) were e. of usual range along Iowa's w. border, and one or 2 in *Cedar* (CRE), *Lee* (CRE), *Davis* (RLC), and *Van Buren* (Ann Johnson) indicate expansion of its toehold in se. Iowa. One or 2 in *Story* from 22-27 Jul (WO) and one in *Polk* in cen. Iowa 28 Jul (DT) were unexpected.

The 43 Bobolinks on a B.B.S. route in *Sullivan/Adair*, MO 24 Jun (SK, Larry Lade) made a good count for n. Missouri. Up to 9 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Squaw Creek (m.ob.), their usual Missouri stronghold. Red Crossbills were in both states, with 4 in *Cherokee* IA 11 Jun (DB), one through 6 Jun in *Gentry*, MO (Judy & Jake Phillips), 9 at Marshfield, MO 5 Jun (Linda Chamberlain, GS), and 2 still there 24 Jun (GS). All of the Missouri birds were Type 2. Holdovers from spring, up to 12 Pine Siskins lingered through 6 Jun in *Cerro Gordo*, IA (PH), and one or 2 were in *Harrison*, *Cole*, and *Clay*, MO as late as 8 Jun (Marky Mutchler, Chris Barrigar, KM).

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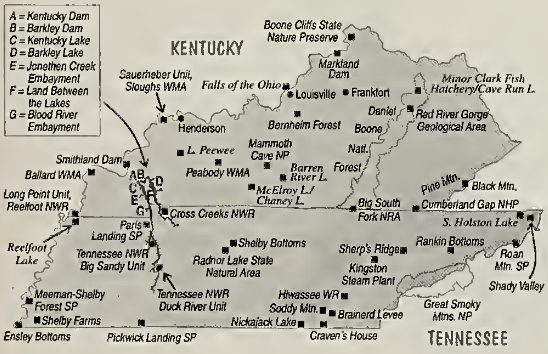
Tennessee & Kentucky


A = Kentucky Dam
B = Barkley Dam
C = Kentucky Lake
D = Barkley Lake
E = Jonethen Creek Embayment
F = Land Between the Lakes
G = Blood River Embayment
KENTUCKY
TENNESSEE
Boone Cliffs State Nature Preserve
Markland Dam
Sauerheber Unit, Sloughs WMA
Falls of the Ohio
Louisville
Frankfort
Minor Clark Fish Hatchery/Cave Run L.
Daniel Boone Natl. Forest
Red River Gorge Geological Area
Henderson
Bernheim Forest
L. Peewee
Mammoth Cave NP
Smithland Dam
Ballard WMA
Peabody WMA
Barren River L.
McElroy L./ Chaney L.
Pine Mtn.
Black Mtn.
Long Point Unit, Reelfoot NWR
Cross Creeks NWR
Big South Fork NRA
Cumberland Gap NHP
S. Holston Lake
Paris Landing SP
Reelfoot Lake
Tennessee NWR Big Sandy Unit
Shelby Bottoms
Radnor Lake State Natural Area
Sherp's Ridge
Rankin Bottoms
Kingston Steam Plant
Roan Mtn. SP
Shady Valley
Meeman-Shelby Forest SP
Tennessee NWR Duck River Unit
Hiwassee WR
Soddy Mtn.
Brainerd Levee
Great Smoky Mtns. NP
Shelby Farms
Nickajack Lake
Ensley Bottoms
Pickwick Landing SP
Craven's House

Chris Sloan
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Weather conditions during June and July 2013 were somewhat variable across the Region. Average temperatures during June were close to normal Regionwide, but average July temperatures were a bit cooler than normal. Precipitation was variable during June, with most of the Region wetter than normal, including Paducah, Kentucky, where more than two times normal precipitation fell; in contrast, Bowling Green, Kentucky, was quite a bit drier than normal. During July, precipitation was above normal across central and eastern portions of the Region, where Lexington, Kentucky, received about two times normal rainfall and Jackson, Kentucky, received about one-and-a-half times the normal rainfall; in contrast, the western part of the Region became quite dry. Periodic episodes of relatively heavy rainfall in various parts of the Ohio and Mississippi River drainages caused several different periods of high water that resulted in complete failure of Least Terns nests on the larger rivers. Rarity highlights in Kentucky included Neotropic Cormorant, nesting Mississippi Kites at Louisville, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, nesting Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in Webster County, and a lingering Red Crossbill. In Tennessee, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Brown Pelican, Roseate Spoonbill, and White-winged Dove highlighted the list of rarities.

Abbreviations: Duck River (Duck River Unit of Tennessee N.W.R., *Humphreys*, TN); Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex, in sw. *Shelby*, TN); Falls of the Ohio (*Jefferson*, KY); McElroy L. (n. of Woodburn, s. *Warren*, KY); Morgan Pond (nw. of Oak Grove, s. *Christian*, KY); Parsons Pond [formerly KY 739 Pond] (karst pond along KY 739 w. of Oakville, sw. *Logan*, KY); Upper Hickman Bottoms (n. of Hickman, w. *Fulton*, KY)

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

A **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** was present through

This immature Roseate Spoonbill in a creek off Chickamauga Lake, Tennessee 3 July 2013 was on private land and not accessible to birders; it represents the first record for Rhea County. Spoonbills are rare post-breeding wanderers to Tennessee. *Photograph by Austin Leaffley.*

the season among the now resident Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Ensley (m.ob.). Two injured Greater White-fronted Geese lingered at Ballard W.M.A., *Ballard*, KY into mid-Jul (BPa, EHu, HC), and an injured American Wigeon summered e. of Morganfield, *Union*, KY (BPa, EHu). As is the norm, small numbers of likely injured Lesser Scaup summered on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, KY, with one also at Bark Camp Barrens W.M.A., *Coffee*, TN 30 Jun (RC). A likely injured Common Goldeneye was at Duck River 2 Jul (CF). Other reports of tardy waterfowl included an American Wigeon at Parsons Pond 6 Jun (ph. FL); a Northern Shoveler at Duck River 26 Jul (SB); a male Redhead at McElroy Lake through 8 Jun (BPa), a male Ring-necked Duck at Parsons Pond 6 Jun (FL); 3 male Ring-necked Ducks at McElroy Lake through15 Jun (BPa); a female Greater Scaup at McElroy Lake 8 Jun (BPa); a female Lesser Scaup at McElroy Lake through 8 Jun (BPa); and a Ruddy Duck at Parsons Pond 15-18 Jun (ph. FL). Small numbers of Blue-winged Teal lingered at a few locales into Jun with nesting confirmed at two: at least 10 were still at Morgan Pond 2 Jun (BPa), with 11 there 10 Jun (C&SR), and 2 females accompanied by small broods of young (4 & 2) there 26 Jun (BPa); several individuals were still at Parsons Pond, s. *Logan* 15 Jun (FL), with a brood of 5 young seen there 22 Jun and 1 Jul (ph. FL) and "many" present there 31 Jul (FL).

Whimbrel is noted annually in the Tennessee and Kentucky region, but almost all reports have been during spring migration. This individual was present in Fulton County, Kentucky, 21-25 (here 21) July 2014. *Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.*

This Marbled Godwit, a rare but annual migrant through the Tennessee and Kentucky region, was a presumed record-early fall migrant along the Mississippi River, Futon County, Kentucky on 28 June 2013. *Photograph by John Brunjes.*

In Tennessee, two pairs were found at Duck River 10 Jun (CF), another pair was in *Sullivan* 17 Jun (WC), and a lone female was at Amnicola Marsh, *Hamilton* 20 Jun (DA). Hooded Mergansers are very rare breeders away from w. Tennessee, so a volant juv. Hooded Merganser in *Knox*, TN 11 Jul (DE) was noteworthy.

Tardy or summering Common Loons were reported at four Kentucky locales: one on Parsons Pond 10-28 Jun (ph. FL); 2 on Kentucky Lake above the dam 18 Jun (BPa); one on Cave Run Lake, *Bath/Rowan*, KY 22-24 Jul (MW, BWu); and 2 on Lake Peewee, *Hopkins*, KY 26 Jul (CC). In *Washington*, TN, singles were at Austin Springs 14 Jun (HF) and Boone Lake 20 Jun (HF, GE). A few Pied-billed Grebes lingered at several sites across the Region, with nesting confirmed at two locales: 7 were at Morgan Pond with two active nests 2 Jun (BPa), and 6 (including one feeding a small chick) were there 19 Jun (BPa); a nest at Parsons Pond failed during early Jun (FL).

Five Wood Storks were at O'Neal Lake, Hatchie N.W.R., *Haywood*, TN 16 Jul (RF). An ad. **Neotropic Cormorant** was present at Lake No. 9, *Fulton*, KY 25 Jun (ph. BPa, ph. EHu). Approximately 1500 Double-crested Cormorants were present at the nesting island in Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, KY 7 Jun (HC, ME). Nesting Double-crested Cormorants were also found at two new locations in Kingsport, TN (RLK), and numbers in several other known breeding locations continued to increase. Single Anhingas were reported from O'Neal Lake, Hatchie N.W.R., *Haywood*, TN 2 Jun (RF); Reelfoot Lake, *Obion*, TN 20 Jun (NM); and Tiptonville Ferry Rd., *Lake*, TN 20 Jun (NM). An ad. **Brown Pelican** at Watts Bar Lake, *Roane*, TN 5 Jun (ph. MK) was a different individual than one seen weeks earlier in nearby *Loudon*. Summer reports of American White Pelicans included 4 at the Falls of the Ohio 12 Jun (MB) through 15 Jun (DSt et al.), with one still there 18 Jun (DSt); up to 20 at Duck River 17 Jun–3 Jul (CF); up to 375 at Lake No. 9, w. *Fulton*, KY during late Jun–mid-Jul (BY, MY et al.); 22 at Savannah, *Hardin*, TN 4 Jul (DSi); 14 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, KY 6 Jul (BPa, EHu); and 2 at the Falls of the Ohio 22-23 Jul (DSt), with one lingering there through 31 Jul (EHu).

Least Bitterns were reported at only one locale: probably 6 different birds were heard (2 of which were also seen) at the Sinclair Unit of Peabody W.M.A., *Muhlenberg*, KY 28 Jul (BPa, AC). Fifteen Snowy Egrets were likely breeding at Little Elder Island, Woods Reservoir, *Coffee*, TN 14 Jul (RC). Likely breeding Cattle Egrets were found in four Tennessee counties, with a high count of at least 150 in *Wilson* 4 Jun (SS). An imm. Little Blue Heron was at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, *Anderson*, TN 9-12 Jul (RH, DMy). Four Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nests (two containing large young) were still active at the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs W.M.A., *Union*, KY 5 Jun (ph. CC). One to 2 White Ibis were at Duck River 16-24 Jul (CF, TW). An imm. **Roseate Spoonbill** in a creek off Chickamauga Lake, *Rhea*, TN 3 Jul (AL) likely represents a first county record; another was at Duck River 22 Jul+ (CF, m.ob.).

Uncommon away from the w. portion of the Region, single Mississippi Kites were seen at St. Matthews, *Jefferson*, KY 9 Jun (ph. JBy) and during late Jun (MS), but during mid-Jul, at least 4 ads. were observed in the area 12-15 Jul (MC et al.) and an active nest containing one young bird was discovered there 16 Jul (BF, MC, BWo); the juv. successfully fledged during early Aug (m.ob.). Up to 7 were at Duck River 11 Jun–23 Jun (CF, SE), and 7, including possibly one juv., were also at Camden W.M.A., *Benton*, TN 23 Jun (CF). Rare during summer, a Sandhill Crane was at Duck River 2-10 Jul (CF).

Tardy spring shorebirds included an American Avocet at Duck River 1 Jun (SE); a Semipalmated Plover at Morgan Pond 19 Jun (BPa); a Black-bellied Plover and a Greater Yellowlegs at McElroy Lake through 2 Jun (BPa); a Lesser Yellowlegs at Parsons Pond 10 Jun (ph. FL); a Semipalmated Sandpiper at the Minor Clark Hatchery, *Rowan*, KY 10 Jun (BWu); and 18 White-rumped Sandpipers at McElroy Lake 4 Jun (TD), with 9 at Parsons Pond 6 Jun (FL). It was an exceptional year for Black-necked Stilts in Kentucky, with nesting documented at two locales. At least two pairs were incubating at McElroy Lake 2 Jun (BPa) with three nests confirmed there 8 Jun (BPa) but only 2 birds and no nests or young observed there 15 Jun (BPa). Successful nesting apparently occurred at several sites in the Lower Hickman Bottoms, w. *Fulton*, with scattered family groups observed during Jul (BY, MY, BPa, EHu et al.). Also reported without evidence of nesting were 3 at Morgan Pond 19 Jun (BPa), with two pairs there 26 Jun (BPa, EHu); 4 at Parsons Pond 28 Jun (ph. FL), with 2 there 6 Jul (FL); 3 along John

U. Young Rd., sw. *Logan* 4 Jul (ph. FL), with 2 there 24 Jul (ph. FL); and one along Horseshoe Road, w. *Henderson* 25 Jun (BPa, EHu).

Single early fall migrant Greater Yellowlegs were reported in w. *Henderson*, KY 25 Jun+ (BPa, EHu); at Parsons Pond 28 Jun (ph. FL); and at Duck River 3 Jul (CF). Peak early fall season shorebird counts in Kentucky were all associated with receding floodwaters in the Upper Hickman Bottoms n. of Hickman, *Fulton* during late Jul (all BPa, EHu) and included 100-125 Lesser Yellowlegs there 20-21 Jul; 50-75+ Semipalmated Sandpipers there 25 Jul; 6-7 Western Sandpipers there 19-21 Jul , with at least 20 there 25 Jul; 150-200 Least Sandpipers there 20 Jul and 200-250 there 21/25 Jul; 550+ Pectoral Sandpipers there 25 Jul; 68 Stilt Sandpipers there 20 Jul , with ca. 40 there 21 Jul , and at least 58 there 25 Jul; and 20 Short-billed Dowitchers there 19 Jul. Spotted Sandpipers nested along Horseshoe Rd., w. *Henderson*, KY with 10 ads. and 3 flighted juvs. (one still with down in the head feathers) there 6 Jul (BPa) and at least 10 ads., a juv., and a downy chick there 24 Jul (BPa). Upland Sandpipers were found on three occasions: one seen and another heard calling over the Upper Hickman Bottoms and 2 s. of Open Pond, w. *Fulton*, KY both 24 Jul (BPa, ph. EHu); and one seen and heard calling over the Upper Hickman Bottoms 26 Jul (BPa, EHu). A Solitary Sandpiper at Morgan Pond 26 Jun (BPa) was quite early. A tardy spring migrant Willet lingered at McElroy Lake through 4 Jun (TD). Early fall migrants included one at Tim's Ford Lake, *Moore*, TN 5 Jul (ES); 7 e. of Morganfield, *Union*, KY 6 Jul (EHu, BPa); and one at the Falls of the Ohio 22 Jul (EHu). A presumed early fall migrant Marbled Godwit was present on the Mississippi River s. of Watson Point, *Fulton*, KY 28 Jun (ph. JBr); one was also found at Ensley 27 Jul (QBG). A **Whimbrel** was present in the Upper Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, KY 21 & 25 Jul (ph. BPa, EHu). About 100 Semipalmated Sandpipers were still at McElroy Lake 2 Jun (BPa), with 7 still there 4 Jun (TD); ca. 60 were still at Morgan Pond 2 Jun (BPa). A White-rumped Sandpiper e. of Morganfield, *Union*, KY 6 Jul (BPa, EHu) may have been summering. An early Long-billed Dowitcher was seen (and heard calling) in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 19 Jul (BPa, EHu).

Two ad. Laughing Gulls were at Kentucky Dam Village S.R.P., *Marshall*, KY 19 Jul (EHu, BPa), with one still there 21 Jul (BPa, EHu). A first-cycle Franklin's Gull was at the Falls of the Ohio 30 Jul (†EHu). Six likely summering Ring-billed Gulls were at Kentucky Dam 18 Jun (BPa), with ca. 120 in the vicinity by 7 Jul (BPa, EHu) and ca. 500 there by 21 Jul (BPa, EHu). Most summering Ring-billed Gulls are subads., so an ad. at Austin Springs, *Washington*, TN 24 Jul (RK) was particularly noteworthy. A Caspian Tern at Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, KY 9 Jun (BWo, BBC) may have been a tardy spring migrant; 3 at Kentucky Dam and one on Lake Barkley above the dam, both 18 Jun (BPa), may have been summering; by 7 Jul, however, 11 were in the vicinity of Kentucky Dam (BPa, EHu). A flock of 22 Black Terns at McElroy Lake 2 Jun (TD et al.) and one at Parsons Pond 10 Jun (ph. FL) were likely tardy spring migrants; 3 e. of Morganfield, *Union*, KY (BPa, EHu) and at least 12 at Parsons Pond (ph. FL), both 31 Jul, were early returning fall migrants. A few different periods of flooding on the lower Ohio and Mississippi Rivers during the nesting season resulted in the inundation and failure of all Least Tern nesting attempts on the large rivers this year (JBr, EHb, CP). In Kentucky, most nesting was attempted at two sites on the Mississippi River: downstream from New Madrid, MO, *Fulton*, where 400+ ads. were counted 2 Jul (JBr), and at Middle Bar, *Hickman*, where 110 ads. were counted 3 Jul (JBr). Up to eight pairs nested again this year on an industrial pond at Calvert City, *Marshall*, KY (EHb, CP), but it appeared that fledging was not successful, probably due to predation. A Forster's Tern at the Falls of the Ohio 14 Jun (DSt et al.) and 3 first-cycle birds near Lake No. 9, w. *Fulton*, KY 25 Jun (BPa, EHu) may have been summering.

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Eurasian Collared-Doves at Woodsbend, *Morgan*, KY during mid-Jun (B&BA) and 2 at Florence, *Boone*, KY 13 Jul (TF) were local firsts. A **White-winged Dove** at Standifer Gap Marsh, *Hamilton*, TN 8-9 Jul (ph. HB et al.) furnished the first record for se. Tennessee. Single Black-billed Cuckoos were encountered in Kentucky at three locales: along KY 52 at Cathedral Domain Rd., *Lee* 3 Jun (BPa); at the Beaver Creek Wetlands, *Menifee* 9 Jun (BWu); and flying across KY 9 s.-se. of Augusta, *Bracken* 22 Jun (BWu). An ad. male Rufous Hummingbird was present in a yard at Owensboro, *Daviess*, KY 29-31 Jul (ph. DR). A pair of Peregrine Falcons was present at Doe River Gorge, *Carter*, TN through early Jun (RK).

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher noted along KY 56, w. *Webster* 26 Jun (SN) was subsequently found to be one of a pair with a nest (ph. EHu, BPa), the first to be reported in the state in several years. In Tennessee, away from the known breeding locations, 2 were in *Lawrence* 4 Jul (DSi), and one was present through the period in *Robertson* (TL, m.ob.). A count of 14 Loggerhead Shrikes, including nestlings, in *Robertson*, TN 9 Jun (TL) is an encouraging sign for a species that has declined dramatically in middle Tennessee over the past 20 years. A Bell's Vireo was at Fort Campbell, *Montgomery*, TN 11 Jun (DMo); this army base is the only current breeding location known for this species in Tennessee. A post-breeding congregation of 2000+ Bank Swallows was noted in the Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, KY 25 Jul (BPa, EHu); 4 seen in e. Kentucky at the Beaver Creek Wetlands, *Menifee*, KY 7 Jul (BWu) and one at Westhaven G.C., *Williamson*, TN 12 Jul (CS) were not near known breeding colonies. The family group of Brown-headed Nuthatches continued at the Kentucky Dam Village S.R.P., *Marshall*, KY nesting locale through the season (BPa, EHu et al.). One at Loretto, *Lawrence* 9 Jun (BPu) may be the vanguard of yet another range expansion in Tennessee.

Mississippi Kites are regular nesters in the western portion of the Tennessee & Kentucky region, but this nest was located in suburban Louisville, Kentucky, a first for anywhere in central Kentucky. ***Photograph by Pam Spaulding.***

Although the species is an annual nester in the southern portion of the Tennessee and Kentucky region, it has been several years since a pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers nested in Kentucky. This pair (here 12 July 2013) raised at least three young in western Webster County, Kentucky. ***Photograph by Pam Spaulding.***

Single Brown Creepers, which are regular breeders at higher elevations in e. Tennessee, were at atypically low elevations—780 m in *Carter*, TN 8 Jun (TM) and 660 m in *Unicoi*, TN 21 Jun (TM)—in dying hemlock stands where they apparently are taking advantage of short-term breeding sites resulting from the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid infestation. Veery is a local breeder in the n. Cumberland Mountains, so 2 on Cross Mountain, *Campbell*, TN 7 Jun (RH, DMy, MN) were noteworthy. Up to 5 Hermit Thrushes were reported through the season on

Roan Mountain, *Carter*, TN (RLK), and 2 were on Unaka Mountain, *Unicoi*, TN 2 Jun (RLK); breeding is presumed in both areas.

A tardy Tennessee Warbler was heard singing along KY 671 ne. of Oak Forest, *Allen*, KY 2 Jun (BPa). Two Magnolia Warblers at McConnell Springs, *Fayette*, KY 5 Jun (†LT) were very tardy; 5-8 males were on Unaka Mountain, *Unicoi*, TN 16 May–30 Jun (RoK, RP, RLK) and 3-8 males were on Roan Mountain, *Carter*, TN 5 Jun–16 Jul (RLK); breeding is presumed at both locations. A Black-throated Blue Warbler at Cummins Falls S.P., *Jackson*, TN 28 Jun (TL) was w. of regular breeding areas for the species. A male Yellow-rumped Warbler was on Roan Mountain, *Carter*, TN 5 & 20 Jun (RLK), and 2 were at Clingman's Dome, Great Smoky Mountains N.P., *Sevier*, TN 25 May and 1 Jun (RH, DMy, MN); both are known breeding locations.

Bachman's Sparrows again bred at Fort Campbell, *Stewart*, TN, with 3 there 25 Jun (DMo) and 2 ads. and 2 juvs. there 2 Jul (DMo). One to 2 Vesper Sparrows were present through the season on the grassy balds of Roan Mountain, *Carter*, TN (RLK). A Lark Sparrow was present at the traditional breeding area along McDonald Land Rd., w. *Henderson*, KY 8 Jun (CC), with 2 there 22 Jun (MY, BY) and one there 22 Jul (JSo). Also reported were 2 carrying nesting material n. of Shelbyville, ne. *Shelby*, KY 9 Jun (MA, TT). In Tennessee, likely breeding Lark Sparrows were reported from *Lawrence*, *Montgomery*, *Gibson*, *Henry*, *Weakley*, and *Rutherford*.

Four to six pairs of Savannah Sparrows were in *Washington*, TN through the season (RLK). A White-crowned Sparrow at Pope Lick Park, e. *Jefferson*, KY 21 Jul (JBe, PB) was a rare summer find. Single White-throated Sparrows were found in *Carter*, TN 8 Jun (JM), along the Dix River n. of Dix Dam, *Mercer*, KY 14 Jun (†TN), and se. of St. Matthews, *Jefferson*, KY 16-18 Jun (BWo). Dickcissels were found at two new probable breeding locations in se. Tennessee: Summit Landfill near Ooltewah, *Hamilton* (*fide* KC) and Tasso Lane in *Bradley* (*fide* KC). Several pairs of Bobolinks continued to be on territory at the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park, s. *Jessamine*, KY during Jun (ph. JSw). A pair was observed carrying food and fecal sacs 22 Jul (RLK) at a site in *Washington*, TN where breeding has been confirmed in the past. Exceptional for the summer season away from the limited breeding range in e. Tennessee were a lingering Pine Siskin was seen along KY 399 se. of Old Landing, *Lee*, KY 3 Jun (BPa) and a Red Crossbill heard calling along Dan Dunn River Rd., n. *Larue*, KY 16 Jun (†BPa).

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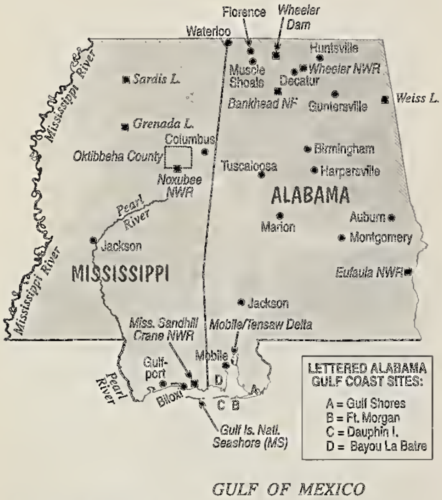


John A. Trent

This summer welcomed more moderate temperatures and much wetter conditions compared to recent years. Temperatures in June were slightly warmer than average after a relatively cool spring. July temperatures, on the other hand, were cooler than in previous years. Total rainfall amounts in June were close to average in both states and near average in July for Mississippi. July rainfall in Alabama, however, was considerably higher than average. Stations across the state averaged 11.7 cm (4.6 inches) above normal. Areas in northern Alabama received some of the highest amounts. For instance, Huntsville had its third wettest July on record.

The heavy rainfall created excellent conditions for early shorebird migration. Many ponds at birding hotspots in northern Alabama and the Montgomery area were filled in early July. Observers capitalized on the situation by documenting several early fall arrival dates for shorebirds in addition to high counts of wading birds. Census work continued in Alabama with Summer Bird Counts contributing important data from several undersampled counties. Otherwise, no significant rarities were reported, and no major breeding range expansions were noted.

Abbreviations: Blakeley (Blakeley Island dredge settling ponds, Alabama State Port Authority, *Mobile*, AL); Dauphin (Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, AL); F.W.F.T.A. (Forever Wild Field Trial Area, *Hale*, AL); G.C. (Gulf Coastal Region of s. Alabama); I.C.P. (Inland Coastal Plain Region, s.-cen. Alabama); Leighton (sinkhole ponds near Leighton, *Colbert*, AL); M.R. (Mountain Region, n. Alabama); Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., *Noxubee/Oktibbeha/Winston*, MS); S.B.C. (Summer Bird Count); T.V. (Tennessee Valley Region, n. Alabama); Wheeler (Wheeler N.W.R., *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, AL).

WATERFOWL THROUGH BITTERNS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks have been expanding rapidly in recent years, but sightings this year were only from previously known areas. One individual was at Chickasaw,

Two male Redheads spent the summer of 2013 in Hale County, Alabama at the Forever Wild Field Trial Area. This provided the first instance of summering birds for the Inland Coastal Plain and the fourth summering record for the state. Seen here 12 June, both individuals lingered throughout the duration of the reporting period. *Photograph by John A. Trent.*

Mobile, AL 7 Jun (LFG). Blakeley continues to host consistent numbers of nesting birds, with 20 seen 9 Jul (KC et al.). Near Walls, *DeSoto,* MS, 7 were seen 8 Jun, with one pair observed copulating (JH), and 5 were at a nearby site 27 Jul (JH, TB). A new summer maximum in Alabama for Mallard was set with 75 at Leighton 21 Jul (DJS, MC). Blue-winged Teal are rare breeders, so three reports from the T.V. and M.R. were noteworthy, with 17 at Leighton/Muscle Shoals, *Colbert* 21 Jul providing the highest count (DJS, MC). Several rare reports of summering, non-breeding waterfowl species were documented this summer. Two male Northern Shovelers were observed at Leighton, one in breeding plumage 17 Jul (AHar) and one in eclipse plumage 21 Jul (DJS, MC). The F.W.F.T.A. hosted 2 male Redheads 12 Jun+ (ph. JAT, JWP). This marked the fourth summer record for Alabama and the first summer record for the I.C.P. Also at F.W.F.T.A., a male Ring-necked Duck was seen 12 Jun (ph. JAT, JWP). A Lesser Scaup was observed 9 Jun+ at the West Point Sewage Pond, *Clay*, MS (TLS), establishing the fourth summer record for the surrounding area. One was also noted w. of Florence, *Lauderdale*, AL 5 Jul (DJS, MC). Occasional in summer, 2 male Ruddy Ducks were observed w. of Laneville, *Hale*, AL 20 Jul (GJH m.ob.). Common Loon sightings came from both coastal and inland locations. In Mississippi, one was at Tishomingo S.P., *Tishomingo* 5 Jun (MS&RP). In Alabama, singles were at Gulf S.P., *Mobile* 22 Jun (ASP) and Wilson Dam, *Colbert* 30 Jun (TMH).

This was a good summer for Pied-billed Grebe, an uncommon breeder throughout the Region. Seven widespread reports came in from Alabama, two of which included observations of dependent young. Wood Stork reports were received from four locations away from the typical hotspots for this time of year. A single was at Wheeler 20 Jun (AHar). One s. of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin* 19 Jul was rare for the G.C. (ph. ESB, Wes Wallace). In Mississippi, 3 were at Brooksville, *Noxubee* 28 Jun (JHa) and up to 75 were at Noxubee 29 Jul (TLS). A Double-crested Cormorant made a rare summer observation for the M.R. during the *Winston* S.B.C. near Double Springs 15 Jun (DJS). Anhingas continue to be regular at Noxubee, with 5 observed 4 Jul (JHa). Rare in the T.V., up to 2 were observed at Wheeler 27 Jun–31 Jul (AHar) and one at Decatur, *Morgan* 24 Jul (CHG). Summer observations of American White Pelicans were abundant this year in the Region, with observations spanning virtually the entire reporting period 8 Jun–28 Jul.

HERONS THROUGH RAILS

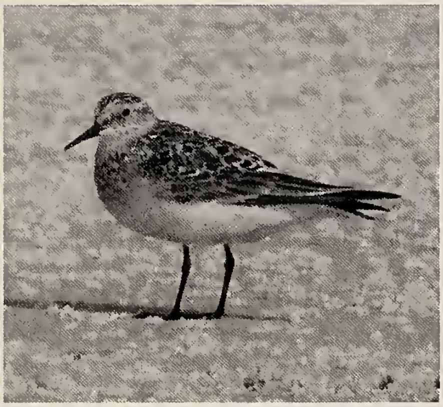
Several high counts of herons and egrets were noted this summer. Leighton had 173 Great Egrets 21 Jul, a good summer count for the T.V. (DJS, MC). Leighton also had high numbers of Snowy Egrets for recent years. Fifteen on 10 Jun was a good number for early summer (TMH), and 37 on 21 Jul was the highest count in the past 60 years for the T.V. (DJS, MC). Additionally, one was observed 14 Jul at Pell City, *St. Clair*, where they are uncommon in the M.R. (GD&DGJ). Sixty Little Blue Herons in the Leighton/Muscle Shoals area 31 Jul was the highest count in the past 50 years in the T.V. (DJS). Rare in the T.V., an imm. White Ibis was seen e. of Muscle Shoals, *Colbert* 31 Jul (DJS). Glossy Ibis are rare away from coastal areas, and one at Hacoma, *Geneva* 1-8 Jun provided the first summer record for the I.C.P. (ph. OHJ et al.). Roseate Spoonbills have been increasing in recent years. At Borden Springs, *Cleburne*, AL, up to 2 were seen 15-16 Jun (WBA, BL et al.). One was at Leighton 22-30 Jun (ph. JDG et al.), and 3 were s. of Newburn, *Hale*, AL 30 Jul (JJ).

A new T.V. high count for Turkey Vulture was established at a roost containing 59 at Wolf Springs, *Lawrence* 9 Jun (PDK). A maximum M.R. count of 14 Swallow-tailed Kites was established at Danway, *Chambers* 20 Jul (BKF). Notable Mississippi Kite sightings came in from four locations. Six set a maximum count for *Lee*, MS 8 Jun, including 2 ads. and 4 imms. (WP, CF). Increasing in the M.R., one was observed at Bibb County Glades, *Bibb* 15 Jul (BCG). Ten set a maximum summer count for the M.R. at Danway, *Chambers* 20 Jul (BKF), and 2 were at Twin, *Marion*, AL 22 Jul (JJ et al.). King Rail is local in the T.V., so 2 were noteworthy at Wheeler 3-27 Jul (AHar). Purple Gallinules continue to be a regular breeder at Noxubee, with up to 6 seen 4 Jul (JHa). Similarly, up to 3 Common Gallinules were observed there 4 Jul (JHa). Summer observations of American Coot continue in Alabama and Mississippi, with four reports of 6 individuals but no evidence of breeding.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH SHRIKES

A Black-bellied Plover at Leighton 21 Jul furnished an early fall arrival record for inland Alabama (DJS, MC). A Spotted Sandpiper in *Montgomery* 29 Jun marked an early fall arrival date for Alabama, unless it was summering (LFG). Another was w. of Florence, *Lauderdale*, AL 4 Jul (TMH). A Solitary Sandpiper was at Leighton 7 Jul (DJS, MC). Summer Greater Yellowlegs sightings included one n. of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, AL 26 Jun (BCG, PR), and 34 was the highest count at Leighton

Roseate Spoonbill sightings have become more frequent in recent years as they disperse through Alabama and Mississippi after nesting. Six were seen at three locations in Alabama in summer 2013, including this individual near the town of Leighton, Colbert County 22 June. *Photograph by Jerry D. Green.*



This Baird's Sandpiper at Dauphin Island, Mobile County 22 July 2013 established an early arrival record for Alabama, one of numerous records of early southbound migrants in the Gulf coast during the summer season. *Photograph by Lawrence F. Gardella.*

21 Jul (DJS, MC). Rare Willet singles were w. of Florence, *Lauderdale,* AL 5 Jul (DJS, MC) and e. of Shorter, *Macon,* AL 7 Jul (LW, KJ). Two photographed at Lake Martin, *Elmore* 18 Jul set an early arrival date for the M.R. (LR et al.). Ten Lesser Yellowlegs provided a good summer count at Leighton 7 Jul (DJS, MC). On the coast, a Marbled Godwit was an uncommon June find at Pelican I./Dauphin 30 Jun (AH). A Stilt Sandpiper was at Dauphin 8 Jul (JAT). Another good summer count of Sanderlings, 50 were observed at Pelican I./ Dauphin 28 Jul (AH). A Baird's Sandpiper at Pelican I./Dauphin 22-28 Jul furnished an early arrival date for Alabama (ph. LFG et al.). Notable Least Sandpiper sightings came in from three locations: one in *Montgomery* 30 Jun (LFG) provided an early record for the I.C.P.; one at Dauphin 7 Jul tied the early G.C. record (JAT); and a total of 81 at Leighton 21 Jul set the maximum summer count for the T.V. (DJS, MC). Lingering from spring, a late departure for White-rumped Sandpiper was documented at Starkville Sewage Pond, *Oktibbeha,* MS 7 Jun (TLS). A Pectoral Sandpiper and a Semipalmated Sandpiper set early records for the I.C.P. in *Montgomery* 5 Jul (LFG). Up to 3 Western Sandpipers were at Dauphin 7-8 Jul, as were 3 Short-billed Dowitchers 6 Jul (JAT). A single Short-billed Dowitcher was a rare find for the M.R. at Pell City, *St. Clair* 14 Jul (GD&DGJ), and 9 at Leighton 21 Jul set a maximum summer count for the T.V. (DJS, MC).

Inland Least Terns are uncommon in the Region. One was observed on the Triana B.B.S. route, *Madison,* AL 7 Jun (JAT). In Mississippi, 2 were observed 8 Jun (JH) and one 27 Jul (JH, TB) w. of Walls, *DeSoto.* Nine White-winged Doves at Excel, *Monroe,* AL 12 Jul was a good number for this expanding species in the Region (AA). An Inca Dove was at a known site s. of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin,* AL 19 Jul (ESB), where they were first documented breeding in 2012. Twenty Ruby-throated Hummingbirds set a new summer maximum for the T.V. at Center Star, *Lauderdale* 27 Jul (DJS). American Kestrels have declined sharply as a breeder in certain areas of the Region, so a bird seen 2 Jul at John Starr Forest, *Winston,* MS was noteworthy (TLS).

Three Willow Flycatchers were present at the F.W.F.T.A. 12 Jun (JAT, JWP) for the fourth consecutive summer. This remains the southernmost breeding site in the Region for this casual breeder. Gray Kingbirds continue to be seen in low numbers on the coast, which has been typical for recent years. One was at Dauphin 24 Jun (BCG, PR) and another at Gulf S.P., *Baldwin,* AL 19 Jul (ESB). Two ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found for the second consecutive year nesting near Artesia, *Lowndes,* MS and were seen regularly until 15 Jun (TLS, D&JP). Five individuals were noted 11 Jun–20 Jul at various locations in *Hale,* AL, where they have become regular.

VIREOS THROUGH ORIOLES

The *Calhoun* S.B.C. tallied a total of 15 Blue-headed Vireos 14-16 Jun (RS, DCH), a good count for this uncommon breeder in the M.R. Fish Crows continue to increase in the T.V., with 7 widespread individuals reported. A pair of nesting Tree Swallows was found 12 Jun at the F.W.F.T.A. in a bluebird nest box (JAT, JWP). The nest contained five eggs and provided a new southwesterly breeding location of this rare but expanding breeder in the I.C.P. Two Bank Swallows w. of Florence, *Lauderdale* established an early Alabama record 5 Jul (DJS, MC). Cliff Swallows are an increasing breeder in s. Alabama. At Gantt, *Covington,* 50+ were noted 7 Jun (RW) and 20 on 1 Jul (LWi). A White-breasted Nuthatch was s. of its typical range 18 Jul se. of Midway, *Bullock,* AL (JAT, ECS). American Robin is rare and local in summer on the G.C. and particularly unusual on the outer coast. One was at Dauphin 4 Jun (EC), and one was farther inland at Meaher S.P., *Baldwin* 9-14 Jul (KC et al.). A Gray Catbird was at Chickasaw, *Mobile* 7 Jun (LFG); this species is an uncommon but increasing breeder in the G.C. Cedar Waxwings are uncommon breeders in n. Alabama, and the only report received was of one individual on the Triana B.B.S. route, *Madison* 7 Jun (JAT).

Observers reported two uncommon breeding warblers for the I.C.P during the *Butler* S.B.C. A Worm-eating Warbler (LFG) and 3 Black-and-white Warblers (GEH) were found 15 Jun. Two American Redstarts 15-21 Jun and one Yellow Warbler 15 Jun were found on the *Calhoun* S.B.C., where both are locally rare breeders (RS&DCH, RR). Eighteen Lark Sparrows were detected across the Region, with 15 from the Black Belt region in Mississippi, where they are uncommon but increasing. Less common in the M.R., one found in *Winston* 14 Jun furnished the first record for that county (JTG), and a nesting pair in *Calhoun* provided the second county record (RS&DCH, RR). A Grasshopper Sparrow was at a regular site in *Clay* 9 Jun (PM, GS) and 28 Jul (TLS, MS), where the species is a rare but regular nesting species in the Black Belt region of Mississippi. A new maximum summer count for Song Sparrow in the M.R. was set at 11 during the *Calhoun* S.B.C. 16 Jun (DPG). Three Scarlet Tanagers were noted in ne. Mississippi, where they are uncommon breeders. One Scarlet was seen at Tupelo, *Lee* 8 Jun (WP, CF), and up to 2 were seen and confirmed breeding 14-28 Jun at Trace S.P., *Pontotoc* (WP). Painted Bunting breeding season occurrences are uncommon and notable for large portions our Region given our placement between the primary breeding populations of eastern and western birds. One ad. male was on territory 8 Jun e. of Autaugaville, *Autauga,* AL at a site that has become reliable in recent years (JAT, ASP). An individual s. of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin* 19 Jul was at a new location in the G.C. (ESB). In *Clay,* MS, 2 individuals were seen at two different locations 24-28 Jul (TLS, MS). Two Dickcissels returned to a site outside of the Black Belt region of Mississippi 2 Jun in *Webster* (TLS). A Pine Siskin at Gallion, *Hale* 27 Jun provided the third summer record for Alabama (D&JS).

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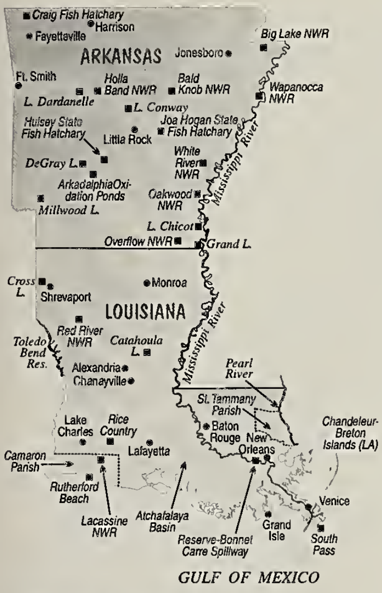
Craig Fish Hatchary
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Holla Band NWR
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LOUISIANA
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Catahoula L.
Alexandria
Chaneyville
Mississippi River
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Lake Charles
Rice Country
Baton Rouge
New Orleans
Chandeleur-Breton Islands (LA)
Cameron Parish
Lafayette
Rutherford Beach
Venice
Lacassine NWR
Atchafalaya Basin
Reserve-Bonnet Carre Spillway
Grand Isle
South Pass
GULF OF MEXICO

Steven W. Cardiff
Kenny Nichols

The Region experienced a fairly quiet summer, with no mentionable widespread weather phenomena and no tropical cyclone activity. The seventh season of the Louisiana Summer Bird Atlas project took place from 1 June through 15 July (see: <http://www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SummerBirdAtlas.html>).

Abbreviations: B.K.N.W.R. (Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge, *White*, AR); North Farm/South Farm (units of Sherburne W.M.A., along e. edge of Atchafalaya Basin n. of Ramah, *Iberville*, LA); T.M.F. (Treadway's Minnow Farm, *Prairie*, AR); Y.T. (Yates Tract, Bayou Pierre Unit, Red River N.W.R., *Red River*, LA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

Once a very local breeder in Arkansas, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck continues to expand across the s. and e. portions of the state. Reports included pairs at McRae, *White* 10 Jun, at Moore Bayou, *Arkansas* 22 Jun, at Allport, *Lonoke* 13 Jul (all K&LN), and a pair with 4 hatchlings at Pine Bluff, *Jefferson* 19 Jul (ph. JR). Although more regular in sw. Arkansas, the 83 counted near Lake Erling, *Lafayette* 1 Jun (Kelly Chitwood) represented a new state high count. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks have also become routine in s.-cen. and se. Louisiana during summer, but there are still relatively few confirmed breeding records; an ad. with 12 ducklings was at North Farm 18 Jul (JVR). Fulvous Whistling-Ducks are considered rare in Arkansas during the breeding season, so the 7 at Camp Nine Farms, *Desha* 22 Jun and the 5 at T.M.F. 31 Jul (both K&LN) were noteworthy. The 19 Mottled Ducks at North Farm 18 Jul (JVR) were indicative of the species' continuing push inland into s.-cen. Louisiana. Unexpected in summer, especially in n.-cen. Louisiana, 3 Blue-winged Teal (2 males, female) were spotted at Lake Claiborne, *Claiborne* 14 Jul (JD). Rounding out the menagerie of ducks at North Farm 18 Jul was a summering Ring-necked Duck (ph. JVR); another was found at nearby South Farm 24 (Nicholas Pederson, MBa) & 26 Jul (JVR). The 6 Greater Scaup found lingering at B.K.N.W.R. 15 Jun (K&LN) made for a first summer record for Arkansas. A male Lesser Scaup summering near Mouton Cove, *Vermilion*, LA from late spring through 22 Jul (MJM) was most likely a hunting season cripple.

Neotropic Cormorants are now more or less expected at aquaculture complexes across sw. Louisiana's prairie region, but 180 at a site in *St. Landry* 9 Jul was still a large number for so far ne., and one in *Concordia* 13 Jul was also unusually far ne. (both JVH). An ad. Double-crested Cormorant and an American White Pelican at Baton Rouge, *East Baton Rouge*, LA 11 Jun (JVR) were apparently summering locally. A visit to Grand Lake, *Chicot* 20 Jul produced several Arkansas rarities, including 2 Glossy Ibis, 3 White-faced Ibis, and 4 Wood Storks (all K&LN); intriguingly, there was also a juv. *Plegadis* (still sporting a bicolored pink-and-black bill) associating with the 2 ad. Glossy Ibis. Glossy is not currently known to breed in Arkansas, but a few pairs were documented nesting in the ne. corner of the state in 1965 and 1972.

KITES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Stray (away from known Louisiana breeding locations) Swallow-tailed Kites were detected on the e. bank of the Mississippi River in e. *Iberville* 2 Jun (JVR) and along the Red River near Boyce, *Rapides* 30 Jul (ph. JVH). A White-tailed Kite, thought to be an independent juv., near Sabine Pass, *Cameron* 17 Jul (ph. PEC) was the season's only report. A group of 11 Mississippi Kites at Kibler, *Crawford* 8 Jun (BB, JN) was an exceptional number for the Ozarks region of nw. Arkansas, where the species is considered quite unusual. The vast majority of Louisiana's breeding population of Bald Eagles nest during winter and vacate the Region during summer, but the species appears to be approaching resident status at some locations. Such was thought to be the case for an ad. at Corney Lake, *Claiborne* 7 Jun (JD) and another at Cotile Lake, *Rapides* 21 Jul (JVH). Unprecedented in Arkansas during the breeding season, a single Sandhill Crane near Kibler 8 Jun (BB, JN) was thought to be injured and possibly the same bird seen here since 20 Aug 2012. Fourteen Black-necked Stilts, including 6 chicks, e. of Baton Rouge at Denham Springs 10 Jul (ph. JVR) was a potential first breeding record for *Livingston*. A pair of American Avocets at B.K.N.W.R. 15 Jun+ (K&LN) may have attempted to nest: no young were seen, but the pair continued almost throughout the period. The species has never been confirmed breeding in Arkansas. Eight American Avocets in *St. Landry* 9 Jul (ph. JVH) were most likely early fall transients. A Piping Plover near Mermentau 13 Jul (MBr, ph. JVR) was not only inland and quite early but also an apparent first for *Acadia*; another at South Farm 24 Jul (MBa, ph. NP) was new for *Iberville* and was also the first inland record for s.-cen. Louisiana. A Willet at Lake Verret, *Assumption*, LA 6 Jul (ph. JVR) was suspected of being a migrant Western Willet rather than a coastal bird wandering inland. Considered rare inland at any season, a Marbled Godwit was near Mulvey, *Vermilion* 11 Jul (JVR, MBr). Rare in summer, especially so early, a Ruddy Turnstone in breeding plumage was photographed at Pine Bluff 18 Jul (JR). Sanderling is considered an uncom-

SA Intensive searches for Glossy Ibis in rice field habitat in the Thornwell area, *Jefferson Davis*, LA 2-3 Jun (SWC, ph. DLD) and 2-3 Jul (SWC, ph. DLD, Joseph Grzybowski, Tamaki Yuri) revealed an unexpectedly high frequency of hybrid Glossy x White-faced, with at least 10 individuals found. There had been a few previous reports of hybrids or suspected hybrids in sw. Louisiana, but not multiple individuals per day. Observations of hybrids involved breeding plumaged ads. that were relatively "Glossy-like" (grayish facial skin, bluish "loral" stripe, no obvious white feathering around face, but with red or reddish-brown eyes and a subtly paler feathering bordering the facial skin) that would likely have been passed off as pure Glossy at a distance. More "White-faced-like" hybrids occur as well but are much less obvious because they do not stand out among the area's much more numerous White-faced. Observers need to be aware of the possibility of hybrids and should make every effort to obtain close-up views and/or photographs to document both hybrids and pure Glossy Ibis in the Region.

mon and local fall migrant inland; singles were reported at Pine Bluff 19 & 22 Jul (JR), and 4 were tallied at T.M.F. 27 Jul (K&LN). A flock of 16 Long-billed Dowitchers in nonbreeding to partial breeding plumages near Mouton Cove 22 Jul (MJM) were probably rare summering birds rather than unusually early southbound transients. Six Wilson's Phalaropes in *St. Landry* 23 Jul (ph. JVH) were early fall transients.

GULLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A very early Ring-billed Gull at Lake Dardanelle, *Yell* 31 Jul (K&LN) was just the fourth Arkansas record from Jul. Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to be reported with increasing frequency along the Louisiana coast during summer. This season, singles were noted in *Cameron* at Rutherford Beach 7 Jun (PEC) and at Holly Beach 17 Jul (ph. PEC), and 5 were found scattered at various locations from Johnsons Bayou e. to Rutherford Beach on 25 Jul (ph. BMM, ph. PEC). A single White-winged Dove found near Weber 29 Jun (K&LN) was an *Arkansas* first and added to just a handful of previous records from Arkansas's Delta region. Four White-wingeds at Montegut, *Terrebonne* 22 Jun (David P. Muth) were presumed breeders; the species is patchily distributed and increasing in se. Louisiana, but confirmation of nesting is still poorly documented. Black-billed Cuckoo is considered a very rare Arkansas summer resident, so the 2 heard on the Magazine Mountain B.B.S. route, *Logan* 2 Jun (K&LN) were unexpected; we note, however, that migrants can occur on the coast as late as the second week of Jun, so early Jun records in the interior should be interpreted with caution. Rare and early, an unidentified *Selasphorus* hummingbird was reported from Marshall, *Searcy* 27 Jul (ph. Mary Como). Three Red-headed Woodpeckers and a Northern Flicker in a pocket of open tall pines near Mermentau in sw. *Acadia* 11 Jul (JVR) were suggestive of isolated breeding outposts s. of those species' normal breeding distributions; another flicker heard singing near St. Gabriel 4-24 Jul (SWC, DLD) was presumably prospecting or a wandering post-breeder. An American Kestrel in extreme se. *East Baton Rouge* 9 Jul (JVR) may have been a local breeder. A very late Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen and heard on the Magazine Mountain B.B.S. route 2 Jun (ph. K&LN). Most likely a wandering post-breeder or early fall transient, a Western Kingbird was encountered near Jennings, *Jefferson Davis* 25 Jul (ph. PEC, BMM).

VIREO THROUGH SISKIN

A rare Louisiana breeder, 2 territorial male Bell's Vireos were present at Y.T. 1 Jun (JVH, TD); a nest was also discovered and was found to contain two eggs being attacked by ants. An amazing 25,000 Purple Martins were counted going to roost in large baldcypress trees at the s. end of Grand Lake 20 Jul (K&LN). A Tree Swallow at South Farm 26 Jul (ph. JVR) was likely an early migrant. Cave Swallow is a rare but increasing summer visitor in Arkansas, and the single juvs. at First Old River Lake, *Miller* 30 Jun (ph. Charles Mills) and at Big Lake N.W.R., *Mississippi* 18 Jul (ph. Mitchell Pruitt) were the thirteenth and fourteenth state records, respectively, as well as county firsts. Also of interest was an ad. Cave Swallow relatively far e. at South Farm 26 Jul (ph. JVR), and up to 4-5 (ad. plus several juvs.) at Y.T. 27 Jul–3 Aug (TD, Hubert Hervey, Larry Raymond, Julie Haggerty, ph. Jeff Trahan; only a few other previous records for n. Louisiana). Eight Cliff Swallows presumably nesting under a bridge near Paincourtville, *Assumption* 27 Jun (JVR) were indicative of the species' continued breeding range expansion across se. Louisiana. Three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at two sites in the Mermentau area possibly represented an isolated pocket of breeders sw. of the species' main breeding distribution in Louisiana. A singing Tennessee Warbler at Bossier City, *Bossier* 14 Jun (v.r. TD) was presumably a late spring straggler and represented the second latest Louisiana record and just the fourth for Jun. A singing male Prairie Warbler in s. *Livingston* 20 Jun (ph. JVR) was likely near the s. limit of the species' breeding distribution; one at Metairie, *Jefferson* 25 Jul (ph. Beth Wiggins) was an early fall migrant s. of the breeding distribution. Eight Pine Warblers (including at least 2 juvs.) in an isolated swath of mature pines at a site near Mermentau 11 Jul (JVR) made for possibly the first parish breeding record and were s. of the species' normal breeding distribution. Bronzed Cowbirds in the Baton Rouge area (where still rare but reported with increasing frequency) included a male at Baton Rouge 11 Jun (JVR, MBr, Corey Bretz) and 3 (male, 2 females) near St. Gabriel the same day (JVR). A pair of Pine Siskins at a feeder in Arkadelphia, *Clark* 23 Jul (ph. Donna Worrell) was only the second ever Arkansas record for Jul; according to the observer, these birds had been present "all summer."

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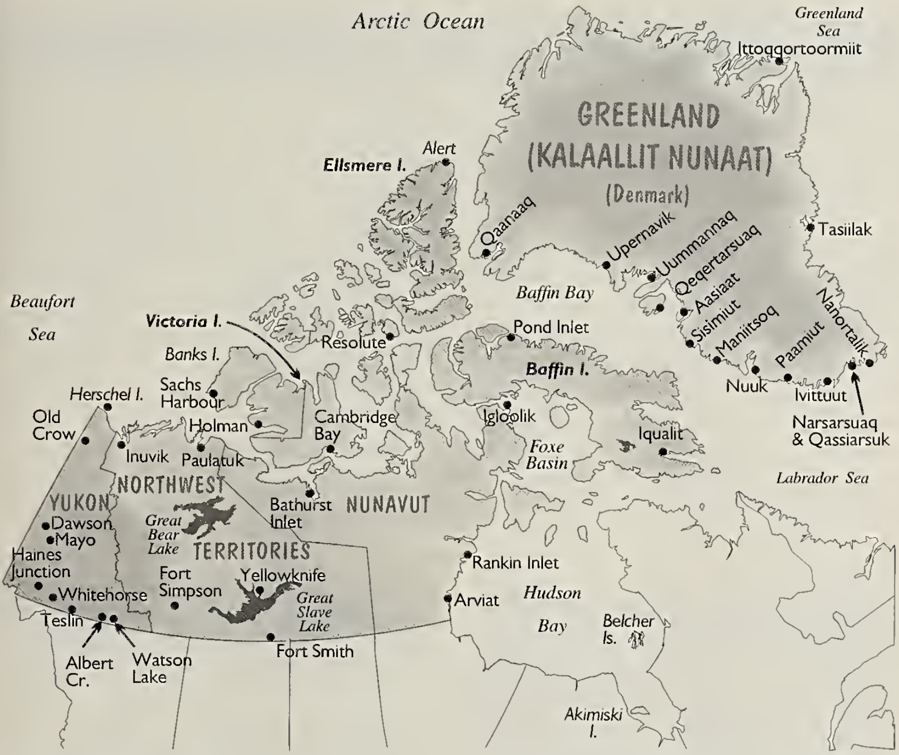

Arctic Ocean
Greenland Sea
Ittoqqortoormiit
GREENLAND (KALAALLIT NUNAAT) (Denmark)
Alert
Ellsmere I.
Qaanaaq
Tasiilak
Upernavik
Uummannaq
Qeqertarsuaq
Asiaat
Sisimiut
Maniitsoq
Paamiut
Nanortalik
Baffin Bay
Beaufort Sea
Victoria I.
Banks I.
Resolute
Pond Inlet
Baffin I.
Nuuk
Ivittuut
Narsarsuaq & Qassiarsuk
Herschel I.
Sachs Harbour
Holman
Cambridge Bay
Igloolik
Foxe Basin
Iqualit
Labrador Sea
Old Crow
Inuvik
Paulatuk
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
YUKON
Dawson
Mayo
Haines Junction
Great Bear Lake
Bathurst Inlet
NUNAVUT
Rankin Inlet
Fort Simpson
Yellowknife
Great Slave Lake
Whitehorse
Teslin
Arviat
Hudson Bay
Belcher Is.
Fort Smith
Albert Cr.
Watson Lake
Akimiski I.

Cameron D. Eckert

A variety of southern rarities was found by northern birders, with two new species documented in the Yukon. Lingering cold and ice in the far north and Arctic regions proved to be challenging for late migrants and nesting species. Reports of White-tailed Eagles and a Meadow Pipit from Greenland were much appreciated—the latter has yet to be reported on the North American continent proper.

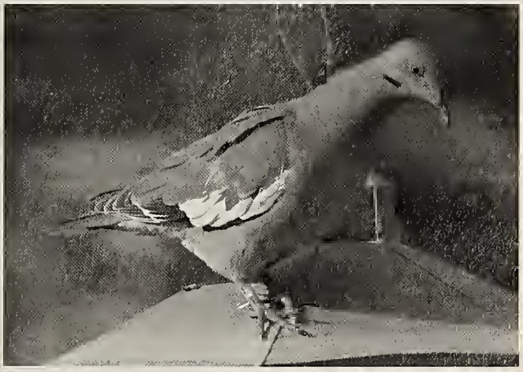
WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Noteworthy goose reports included 2500 Snow Geese at Bylot Island, Nunavut 21 Jun (DLB), 1000 Snow Geese at Akimiski Island, Nunavut 21 & 27 Jul (JW), and 1000 Canada Geese at Akimiski 27 Jul (JW). Brant is a late spring migrant through s. Yukon; 258 were seen over Wolf Creek 2 Jun (JH). A seawatch off the ne. side of Herschel Island, n. Yukon 13 Jun produced 1175 Long-tailed Ducks, along with 5 Red-throated, 20 Pacific, and 12 Yellow-billed loons (CE). Hooded Merganser is scarce in the Region; 2 were at the Ingram Trail, NWT 26 Jun (RK). Highlights of an aerial survey of Cambridge Bay, Nunavut 10 Jul were 15 Red-throated, 30 Pacific, and 25 Yellow-billed Loons, 150 King Eiders, and 250 Long-tailed Ducks 10 Jul (KWA). An impressive 40 Red-necked Grebes were recorded at Yellowknife River and Bay, NWT 27 Jun (RK). Northern Fulmar counts of 100 each were reported from Frobisher Bay, Nunavut 28 Jul and Cumberland Sound, Nunavut 29 Jul (GS); 40 were at Arctic Bay, Nunavut 20 Jul (CK, TK), and 30 were in Denmark Strait, Greenland 21 Jul (BS). Also seen on the cruise through Denmark Strait, Greenland 21 Jul were single Great Shearwaters at two locations and a Great Skua (BS). Single **White-tailed Eagles** were seen at Hvalsey, Greenland 24 Jul and at Grattahlid, Greenland 25 Jul (BS).

Late migrant shorebirds included single Black-bellied Plovers at Fort Simpson, NWT 2 Jun (DT) and Henderson's Corner, cen. Yukon 5 Jun (CE) and 1-2 Whimbrels at Fort Simpson, NWT 13 & 16 Jun (DB). A count of 44 American Golden-Plovers was recorded at Bylot Island, Nunavut 26 Jun (DLB). Common Ringed Plover is a true northern specialty; reports this season included one at Marcil Lake, Arctic Bay, Nunavut 6 Jun (CK), 2 at Iqaluit, Nunavut 7 Jun (JB), 14 (comprised of five family groups) at Bylot Island, Nunavut 17 Jul (DLB), and one at Kangerlussuaq, Greenland 28 Jul (BS). Tombstone Territorial Park, cen. Yukon is the best place in Canada to view Surfbirds on their high mountain nesting grounds; a displaying male was at Discovery Ridge 5 Jun (CE). The season's high count for Marbled Godwit at Akmiski Island, Nunavut was 14 on 22 Jul (JW). A tally of 8 Purple Sandpipers was reported from Resolute, Nunavut 14 Jun (JR). A total of 15 Red Knots was at Bylot Island, Nunavut 20 Jun (DLB). Ruddy Turnstone reports, all from Nunavut, included 10 each at Marcil Lake, Arctic Bay 3 Jun (CK) and Bylot Island 17 Jul (DLB), plus 11 at Akimiski Island 26 Jul (JW). Three Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Herschel Island, n. Yukon 12 Jun (CE, EM, SM), while 20 were at Cambridge Bay, Nunavut 16 Jul (JF, KW). Shorebird migration was well underway at Akmiski Island, Nunavut 23 Jul with a count of 1000 Semipalmated Sandpipers (JW). The season's high counts of 49 Baird's and 26 White-rumped Sandpipers came from Marcil Lake, Nunavut 6 Jun (CK). A Wilson's Phalarope, rare in sw. Northwest Territories, was at Fort Simpson 1 Jun (DB).

GULLS THROUGH FINCHES

Impressive reports of Long-tailed Jaegers included 69 with 12 Parasitics at Bylot Island, Nunavut 29 Jun (DLB), 48 at Running River, n. Yukon 27 Jun (BD), and 30 at Cambridge Bay, Nunavut 30 Jun (RK). Parasitic Jaeger reports from Great Slave Lake, NWT were one at Willow Flats 6 Jun (RH) and 4 at the North Arm 29 Jun (VSG). Ring-billed Gull is a rare wanderer to the Yukon, whereas it is common across s. Northwest Territories and Nunavut; 50 were at Fort Simpson, NWT 1 Jun (DT), 100 were at Frame Lake, NWT 24 Jun (RH), and an impressive 1000 were at a nesting colony on Cormorant Island, Nunavut 28 Jul (JW). Thayer's Gull reports included 22 at Siuraqtujuq, Nunavut 27 Jun (CK), and 15 at Resolute, Nunavut 14 Jun (JR). Iceland Gull reports from Nunavut included 2 each from Iqualuit 11 Jun (DLB, FSG), Cumberland Sound 29 Jul (GS), and Sunshine Fiord, Baffin Island 30 Jul (GS); while in Greenland, 20 each were at Nanortalik 23 Jul and Hvalsey 24 Jul (BS). Lesser Black-backed Gull reports from Greenland included 6 at Nanortalik 23 Jul and 2 at Nuuk 26 Jul (BS). A single Sabine's Gull drifted in out of the fog at Herschel Island, n. Yukon 11 Jun (ph. CE), while 15 were at Cambridge Bay, Nunavut 29 Jun (RK). Black-legged Kittiwake reports included 60 at Bylot Island, Nunavut 29 Jul (DLB, FSG) and 36 at Cambridge Bay,



This White-winged Dove seen briefly at a Marsh Lake feeder on 4 July 2013 established the first record for the Yukon. ***Photograph by Frank Taylor.***

Nunavut 29 Jul (GS). Headliner gulls included a Black-headed Gull seen at Nuuk, Greenland 26 Jul (BS) and a single Ross's Gull off the n. side of Bylot Island, Nunavut 14 Jun (TF). A locally high count of 75 Arctic Terns was recorded on Frame Lake, NWT 8 Jun (RH); 35 were tallied at Bylot Island, Nunavut 29 Jul (DLB, FSG). Ten Common Terns were tallied around Fort Simpson 1 Jun (DT). A total of 14 Black Terns, close to the edge of their range, were seen between Mackenzie River Crossing and Yellowknife, NWT 22 Jun (RH); and a quick check of the small colony at Blind Lake, se. Yukon turned up about 20 on 25 Jun (CE, LH). A survey of Cormorant Island, Nunavut recorded 1000 Ring-billed and 100 Herring Gulls, 40 Caspian and 90 Common Terns, and 200 Double-crested Cormorants, as well as 51 Hudsonian Godwits, 50 Dunlins, and 4 American White Pelicans 28 Jul (JW).

A fairly high count of 15 Snowy Owls was recorded at Cambridge Bay, Nunavut 29 Jun (RK, RW). A Great Gray Owl was a nice find near Mackenzie River Crossing, NWT 22 Jun (RH). A ship-based observer recorded 25 Black Guillemots in Cumberland Sound, Nunavut 29 Jun, 50 Thick-billed Murres at Sunshine Fiord, Baffin Island, Nunavut 30 Jul, and 40 Thick-billed Murres at Frobisher Bay 28 Jul (GS). The arrival of 48 Black Guillemots at Herschel Island, n. Yukon was observed 13 Jun (CE). Now that Eurasian Collared-Dove is regular across s. Yukon, it seemed time for a new rare dove—which came in the form of the Territory's first **White-winged Dove** that appeared briefly at a Marsh Lake feeder 4 Jul (ph. FT). A White-winged Dove appeared at a Yellowknife feeder 20 Jun and stayed for three weeks (CP, MP; ph. RH); it was seen just a few kilometers from the site of the Northwest Territories' first in 2011.

A total of 31 Alder Flycatchers was recorded on a B.B.S. route along the Mackenzie Hwy. near Fort Simpson, NWT 22 Jun (DB). A Dusky Flycatcher was at the edge of its range at km 458 of Robert Campbell Hwy., se. Yukon 11 Jun (JJ). Single Marsh Wrens, all in Northwest Territories, were heard 8-14 Jun at Fort Liard, Fort Providence and along the Liard Hwy. (DB; CM). A **Gray Catbird** at Kluane Lake 27-29 Jun (ph. LG, ph. MB, CE) established the Yukon's first well-documented record. A displaying Northern Wheatear was seen atop Charcoal Ridge, Tombstone Territorial Park, cen. Yukon 5 Jun (CE), while 12 were at Nanortalik, Greenland 28 Jul and 8 at Kangerlussuaq, Greenland 28 Jul (BS). A displaying Northern Wheatear and a singing Eastern Yellow Wagtail were highlights at Herschel Island, n. Yukon 12 Jun (CE). Likewise, 4 Northern Wheatears and a single Eastern Yellow Wagtail were reported from a remote site in the British Mountains, n. Yukon 21 Jul (KS). The report of a **Meadow Pipit** at Nanortalik, Greenland 23 Jul (BS) would catch the interest any North American birder. A Yellow-rumped Warbler, well n. of its range, was reported from Kugluktuk, Nunavut 28 Jun (RK). Reports of Clay-colored Sparrow, casual in s. Yukon and rare but regular in sw. Northwest Territories, included one at Wye Lake, se. Yukon 1 Jun (JJ; CE, TMK), eight records from the Fort Simpson, NWT area (DB; CM; DT), and a high count of 3 at Fort Liard, NWT 8 Jun (DB). Le Conte's Sparrow is a local breeder in s. Northwest Territories; one was at Fort Liard 8 Jun (DB), and 2 were at Willow Flats, Yellowknife 3 Jun (RH). Nelson's Sparrow is considerably rarer in the Region. In Northwest Territories, one was heard on the Fort Providence B.B.S. route 14 Jun (CM). Sooty Fox Sparrow just reaches s. Yukon at treeline along the Haines Rd. s. of Haines Junction; 3 were singing on territories there 29 Jun (CE). Single Harris's Sparrows were at Back River, Nunavut 16 Jun (SL), Cambridge Bay, Nunavut 28 Jun (RK, RW), and Herschel Island, n. Yukon 22 Jul (RJ). A wayward Golden-crowned Sparrow provided a first record for Herschel Island, n. Yukon 11-14 Jun (ph. CE). A **Western Meadowlark**, casual in Northwest Territories, was at Fort Liard 8 Jun (DB). Common Grackle is fairly common in s. Northwest Territories; high counts of 6 each were reported from Niven Lake 1 Jun (VSG) and near the Mackenzie River Crossing 22 Jun (RH).

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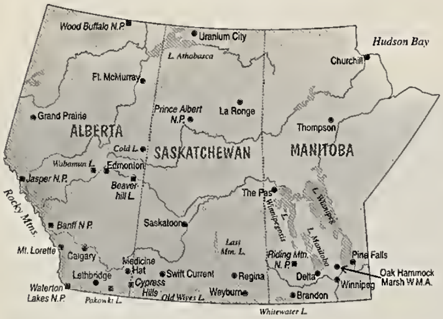
Prairie Provinces



Rudolf F. Koes
Peter Taylor

The late spring resulted in the migration of shorebirds, flycatchers, and warblers extending well into June and the delayed onset of breeding by waterfowl and numerous other species. Examples of late breeding in Manitoba include young Bald Eagles still in the nest mid- through late July, recently fledged Eastern Screech-Owls at Winnipeg late July (fully a month and a half late), and gulls and terns incubating mid-July in the north of the province. Molt migration of Canada Geese in Manitoba continued well into July, at least a month later than normal.

The weather was unpredictable in the south, with periods of cool and wet followed by warmer temperatures. Severe flooding in parts of southern Alberta in late June destroyed Bank Swallow and Cliff Swallow colonies, but birds re-nested immediately after waters receded. In the north, it was generally hot and bone dry, resulting in numerous wildfires in northern Manitoba, which severely hampered Breeding Bird Atlas efforts. Nevertheless, Atlas work again produced a number of extralimital records, mostly north of known breeding ranges (see Table 1).

Abbreviations: C.N.S.C. (Churchill Northern Studies Centre); E.N.C. (Edmonton Nature Club).

WATERFOWL THROUGH WADERS

A Greater White-fronted Goose at Brandon, MB 20 Jun was unexpected (CC). Trumpeter Swans continue to thrive and expand in Alberta and Manitoba. A Tundra Swan at Rosser, MB 14 Jul was out of season (KGn), as was a Greater Scaup near Grosse Isle, MB 13-28 Jul (KGn). A Long-tailed Duck at Clear Lake, MB 2 Jun was

Table 1. Notable records from Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas fieldwork in northern Manitoba during summer 2013.

Species	#	Location	*	Date	Observer(s)
Red-throated Loon	4	Bain Lake (58.90° N, 99.24° W)	S	11 Jul	RK, RS
Little Gull	1	Cape Tatnam (57.26° N, 91.00° W)	E	12 Jul	CA
Caspian Tern	1	Stony Lake (58.85° N, 98.64° W)	N	27 Jun	AG, AT
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	Bain Lake	N	11-12 Jul	RK, RS
Hairy Woodpecker	3	Bain Lake	N	11 Jul	RK, RS
Least Flycatcher	2	Egenolf Lake (59.00° N, 100.00° W)	N	8 Jul	RK, RS
Eastern Kingbird	1	Stony Lake	N	29 Jun	AG, AT
Red-eyed Vireo	1	Stony Lake	N	28 Jun	AG, AT
Sedge Wren	1	Stony Lake	N	23 Jun	AG, AT
Gray Catbird	1	Cape Tatnam	N	13-19 Jul	CA
Western Tanager	1	Wekusko Falls (54.79° N, 99.97° W)	E	9 Jun	CA, MD, JM
Le Conte's Sparrow	1	Wapusk N.P.	N	6 Jul	CA, JL
Evening Grosbeak	1	Island Lake (53.83° N, 94.59° W)	N	17 Jun	AG
Evening Grosbeak	1	Robinson Lake (54.38° N, 96.45° W)	N	22 Jun	MD

** Direction from known breeding range*

This Great Egret lingered at Weed Lake, Alberta from 22 (here 29) July into August 2013. *Photograph by Andrew Hart.*

With about fifteen records for Alberta, Snowy Egret remains a less-than-annual visitor to the province. This bird was at Pakowki Lake 23 June 2013. *Photograph by Gerald Romanchuk.*

late (CC, JW et al.). Also of note was a Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser hybrid in Kananaskis Country, AB 17 Jul (TK). A female **Rock Ptarmigan** at Churchill, MB 13-16 Jul was unexpected (RH, ph.). A Red-throated Loon lingered at Hecla P.P., MB 3 Jun (RP).

A small cormorant seen in flight with 5 Double-crested Cormorants at Dauphin Lake, MB 14 Jun was most likely a **Neotropic Cormorant** (PT), which would be a first for the province if accepted. A Great Egret at Weed Lake, AB 22 Jul into Aug was seen by many (BS, m.ob., ph.), while Saskatchewan reports of the species came from Moose Mountain P.P., the Broadview area, Duck Mountain P.P., Foam Lake, and the Quill Lakes 1 Jun–20 Jul (m.ob.). Snowy Egret sightings were at Shoal Lakes, MB 22 Jun (RM, CM), Whitewater Lake, MB 25 Jun (RP), and Pakowki Lake, AB 23 Jun (GR, ph.). Cattle Egrets were widely reported in se. Saskatchewan and s. Manitoba (m.ob.). Green Herons were noted in Manitoba at Great Falls 22 Jun (PT), Middlebro 13 Jul (BB), Gimli 14 Jul (CM, RM), and at Steinbach on several occasions, including a nest with 2 young (DF, *fide* VR). White-faced Ibis thrived in Alberta due to lush vegetation and wet conditions (TK). In Saskatchewan, 13 birds were reported in total between 1 Jun and 2 Jul, at Midale, Francis Lake, Carmichael, and Twelve Mile Lake, while in Manitoba most were at Whitewater Lake.

HAWKS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Red-tailed Hawks were notably common in parts of s. Saskatchewan, e.g., 95 tallied in about 80 km between Regina and Lang 23 Jun (V& DT). Two Whooping Cranes summered at Mudstick Lake near Rumsey, AB (MS, E.N.C.), another 2 did likewise near Tyner, SK (DZ), and a single bird was at Emma Lake, SK 28 Jul (DI). A northerly Piping Plover nest was near Innisfree, AB 22-23 Jun (MS). Not one Piping Plover was reported in Manitoba this year (*fide* KP). Black-necked Stilts continued to be prominent in parts of the region, especially s. Alberta and s. Saskatchewan. An American Avocet at Churchill 7 Jun was rare (C.N.S.C.), while a leucistic individual was an oddity near Irricana, AB 5 Jun (JG, PS, ph.). A tally of 1200 Hudsonian Godwits at Cape Tatnam 14 Jul (CA) was high. A Lesser Black-backed Gull near St. Ambroise, MB 4 Jun was a good find (BD), as were an Arctic Tern at Hecla 3 Jun (RP) and 2 Black Terns at Churchill 7 Jun (C.N.S.C.).

Two **Dovekies** were reported on Hudson Bay, one 15 km offshore from Seal River, MB 9 Jul and one a few days earlier and a little farther south (BC). There is one previous inland record from Norway House in cen. Manitoba in 1944. For the second year in a row, Snowy Owls lingered in the south, with one near Yellow Grass, SK 6 & 16 Jun (LK), one near The Pas, MB 15 Jun (JK), and one near Prince Albert, SK 24 Jun (RJ). A Northern Hawk Owl brood in the Parkland Region just w. of Winnipeg Beach, MB 10 Jun was unusual (SS, m.ob.). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo near Ste. Anne, MB 4-7 Jul was a good find (LB; VR). Red-headed Woodpeckers at Broadview, SK 1 Jun (DW), Duvernay, AB 11 Jun (KG) and Grasslands N.P., SK (FK) were w. of the main breeding range. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were noted at Chaplin, SK 1 Jun (IC) and at Gimli, MB 8 Jun (BC).

PASSERINES

A Rock Wren at a stone quarry e. of Whitemouth, MB was found singing 5 Jul and remained into Aug (PT, m.ob., ph.). Single Eastern Bluebirds were noted near Cypress Hills,

The PR 227 landfill, near St. Ambroise, Manitoba, has attracted a host of rare gulls over the years, including this Lesser Black-backed Gull on 4 June 2013. *Photograph by Bruce Di Labio.*

SA For many years, the ranges of several grassland birds in Manitoba have contracted toward the sw. corner of the province. More recently, a similar range contraction has been noted for several wetland species, including Black-crowned Night-Heron, Eared Grebe, American Coot, Franklin's Gull, Black Tern, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. These have disappeared from many minor, outlying breeding locations and declined even at major strongholds such as Oak Hammock Marsh W.M.A., while remaining locally common or even abundant in the southwest. While breeding birds may have been "siphoned off" by excellent breeding conditions in the southwest in recent wet years, there is a disturbing feeling that some of these changes may not be reversed any time soon.

This Rock Wren took up residence at a stone quarry near Whitemouth, Manitoba from 5 July (here) into August 2013. Although it was seen by many, no evidence of breeding was obtained. *Photograph by Peter Taylor.*

Although not unprecedented at this location in summer, this Rock Ptarmigan at Churchill, Manitoba 13 (here) and 16 July 2013 was most unseasonable; the species is observed here mostly from late autumn through early spring. *Photograph by Reid Hildebrandt.*

Atlas work in Manitoba has established that Western Tanager's breeding range includes the boreal forest in the northwest of the province. This male was found on 9 June 2013 at Snow Lake. *Photograph by Christian Artuso.*

AB 1 Jun (YA et al.) and at Fort Walsh, SK 2 Jun (AH, HJ). There have been several such westerly reports of the species in recent years. A Western Bluebird at Waterton N.P., AB 1 Jul was at the e. extreme of its range (KM). Mountain Bluebird numbers in sw. Manitoba continue to decline, while Eastern Bluebirds seemingly thrive. There were two Northern Mockingbird reports: one from spring through 14 Jul at Medicine Hat, AB (MF) and one at Powerview, MB 16 Jun (GB). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Avonlea, SK 11 Jul was a good find (AS); rarer still was a secretive bird seen by a lucky few at Bradwardine, MB from 19 Jul into Aug (KDS, m.ob.).

A Snow Bunting at Pense, SK 22 Jul was very much out of season (DS). Atlas work in s. Manitoba produced a Field Sparrow near Piney 23 Jun (DD, IW). Dickcissels were reported in Jul from Avonlea (AS, BL) and Mainprize (KH), both Saskatchewan, and in Manitoba from Steinbach (PD), Lyleton, Pierson, and Whitewater Lake (GB, DDo). Bobolinks did well in Alberta, as far n. as Edmonton (*fide* TK), while in s. Manitoba they are increasingly making use of cereal fields for breeding.

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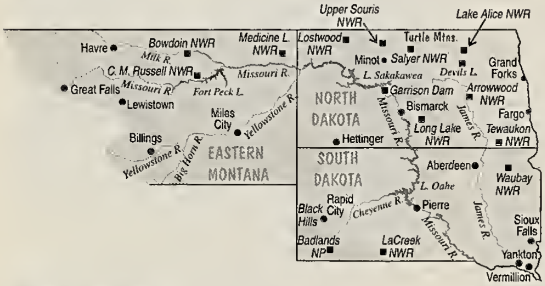
Northern Great Plains


Upper Souris NWR
Lake Alice NWR
Havre
Bowdoin NWR
Milk R.
Medicine L. NWR
Lostwood NWR
Turtle Mtns.
Minot
Salyer NWR
Grand Forks
C. M. Russell NWR
Missouri R.
L. Sakakawea
Devils L.
Great Falls
Missouri R.
Fort Peck L.
Garrison Dam
Arrowwood NWR
Lewistown
NORTH DAKOTA
Missouri R.
Bismarck
Fargo
Miles City
Yellowstone R.
Long Lake NWR
James R.
Tewaukon NWR
Billings
Hettinger
Yellowstone R.
Big Horn R.
EASTERN MONTANA
SOUTH DAKOTA
Aberdeen
Waubay NWR
L. Oahe
Rapid City
Black Hills
Cheyenne R.
Pierre
James R.
Sioux Falls
Missouri R.
Badlands NP
LaCreek NWR
Yankton
Vermillion

Ron Martin

Temperatures were average for the season, with above-average precipitation in June in the northwestern part of the Region. In other areas, precipitation was at or below average. The late, wet spring pushed migration into June. Many passerines were still present in good numbers the first week of June, particularly warblers and vireos.

It appeared that nesting success was very low this season. Waterfowl reproduction was very poor, with few broods noted. Grassland sparrow numbers were dismal in North Dakota. Baird's and Le Conte's Sparrows were particularly difficult to find in central and eastern areas of the state.

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

A pair of wayward Tundra Swans was in *Cass*, ND 1-8 Jul (KRC). A flock of 110 molting Buffleheads was in *McHenry*, ND 21 Jun (REM). A Red-breasted Merganser lingered through 5 Jun in *Stanley*, SD (DB). Neotropic Cormorants 12 Jul in *Codington* (BJU) and 20 Jul in *Brule* (KP, SS) brought the total of South Dakota reports to 17, all very recent. A Cattle Egret in good nesting habitat in *Divide*, ND 18 Jul was nw. of the species' usual range in the state (CDE). Three Green Herons reported w. of their range in North Dakota included a single 1 Jun in *Stark* (JWH). The thirteenth report for North Dakota, a Glossy Ibis was in *Kidder* 20-21 Jun (DOL).

Broad-winged Hawks 13 Jun in the Sheyenne National Grasslands (DLK) and 22 Jun in the Killdeer Mountains of North Dakota (KO, HO) were both in areas where nesting is suspected but not confirmed. Likewise, a single in *Charles Mix*, SD 11 Jul (RM) was in an area of possible breeding. Evidence of the dramatic increase of Turkey Vultures in ne. Montana in recent years, up to 23 were roosting at Malta, including a wing-tagged individual banded the previous year in Alberta (SJD). An indication of the incredible wet period still hanging on in nw. North Dakota was the 53 Soras recorded on the Denbigh B.B.S. in *McHenry* 12 Jun (REM). This area is usually dry, sandy grassland and farmland.

An early Solitary Sandpiper was in *Custer*, SD 28 Jun (KP). A Semipalmated Sandpiper at Freezout Lake, MT 21 Jul had been banded in Peru 9 Jan (LC, MS). An American Woodcock 5 Jun at Devils Lake, ND provided a rare Jun record for an area where nesting is suspected

(RO). An amazing 53 Wilson's Snipe were tallied in the Denbigh B.B.S., *McHenry*, ND 12 Jun (REM). A Laughing Gull in *Hughes*, SD 8 Jun (DB, RDO) provided the twelfth record for the state. Very unusual away from the Missouri River, a Least Tern was at Long Lake N.W.R., *Burleigh*, ND 23 Jun (ph. DOL). In Montana, 7 ad. Least Terns and two nests were seen on a 3 Aug boat trip on the Yellowstone River between Fallon and Glendive (LB).

OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

Very rare e. of the Divide, 2 **Western Screech-Owls** were at Choteau, MT 7 Jun (MS). A Burrowing Owl was far e. in *Deuel*, SD 12-26 Jul (BJU). A Common Poorwill at Hazen, ND 5 Jun provided a first county record for *Mercer* (JCC). Two Pileated Woodpeckers at Denbigh Experimental Forest, *McHenry*, ND 29 Jun (REM) continued their expansion in the Souris River loop.

A **Western Wood-Pewee** at Fargo, ND 22-25 Jun was a first for the area (DPW) and well e. of the species' range in the state. Two Western Wood-Pewees along the Souris River in *Renville*, ND 5 Jul were at the ne. edge of their range in the state (REM, SDL). Eastern, Western, and Cassin's Kingbirds were all present along Old Divide Rd. n. of Billings, MT 14 Jun (ML). Of note was a Brown Creeper on the Emerado B.B.S., *Grand Forks*, ND 19 Jun (TGD). There is only one breeding confirmation for the state. The only Carolina Wren report was from *Bon Homme*, SD 16 Jun (ND). Adding to the growing number of **Pacific Wren** reports from South Dakota, one was in *Lawrence* 24 Jun (KP). A pair of Mountain Bluebirds in *Pierce*, ND 8 Jun provided the first breeding season record for the county (REM). The range of Northern Waterthrush in e. North Dakota has been moving southward in recent decades. One was on territory 23 Jun in *Barnes* (REM, SLW). Warbler migration was still in full swing in early Jun. Most regular migrant species were recorded the first week of Jun, some in high numbers. An earlier migrant, 6 Black-throated Green Warblers were at Fargo, ND 2 Jun (KRL). A Tennessee Warbler was unusual at Westby, MT 14 Jul (TN).

Two Spotted Towhees in *Pierce*, ND 8 Jun were at the ne. edge of their range in the state (REM). A Baird's Sparrow in *Deuel*, SD 30 Jul was well se. of the species' usual haunts (BJU). Casual in the breeding season, a late wandering Western Tanager was in *Bowman*, ND 5 Jun (CAH). Providing a first county record, a Blue Grosbeak was singing along the Souris River in *Renville*, ND 5 Jul, well nw. of the species' limited range along the Missouri River s. of Bismarck (REM). A female Lazuli Bunting was unusual in *Kidder*, ND 15 Jun (CLW). Dickcissels were widespread in North Dakota during the season. Rare in North Dakota, Eastern Meadowlarks were at Arrowwood N.W.R. 15 Jun (AW) and in *Williams* 19 Jun–20 Jul (AR). A Bullock's Oriole feeding young in *Ward*, ND 25 Jun was well ne. of the usual range along the Little Missouri River (TS). A Purple Finch at Sully's Hill National Game Preserve, *Benson*, ND 16 Jun was s. of their range in the Turtle Mountains (RS). A Common Redpoll at Arrowwood N.W.R. 10 Jun (ph. DA) was North Dakota's first ever in summer.

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Southern Great Plains

Scottsbluff
Crescent Lake N.W.R.
NEBRASKA
L. McConaughy
North Platte
Grand Island
Omaha
Lincoln
PLATTE R.
Kirwin N.W.R.
Manhattan
KANSAS
Hays
Topeka
Cheyenne Bottoms
Quivira N.W.R.
Flint Hills N.W.R.
Marais de Cygnes W.M.A.
Wichita
Cimarron National Grassland
Black Mesa S.P.
Great Salt Plains N.W.R.
OKLAHOMA
Tulsa
Oklahoma City
Muskogee
Washita N.W.R.
Wichita Mtns. N.W.R.
Fort Sill
Tishomingo N.W.R.
Broken Bow Res.

Joseph A. Grzybowski
W. Ross Silcock

This summer season perhaps struck the averages for rain in much of the Region. Observers afield reported a normal scatter of late spring migrants and summer vagrants for groups such as waterfowl, shorebirds (in northern areas of the Region), and warblers. There were lingering effects from the past two summers of drought conditions, still severe in the southwestern portion of the Region, certainly responsible for lower counts of herons, ibises, shorebirds in Oklahoma and the reduced numbers of species such as Least Bittern, King Rail, and Western Grebe. Hackberry Flat, which has been a virtual mecca wetland in southwestern Oklahoma, was dry. Gulls made very little news; notably absent this season compared to some years within the past two decades were Laughing and California Gulls.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., *Stafford*, KS); McConaughy (McConaughy Reservoir, *Keith*, NE); Quivira (Quivira N.W.R., *Barton*, KS); Red Slough (Red Slough W.M.A., *McCurtain*, OK).

DUCKS THROUGH TERNS

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck made it n. to *Clay*, NE 21-22 Jun (ph. PD; RMa), while 3-4 wandered to *Canadian*, OK 26 Jun–2 Jul (CE, LM), and one to *Coal*, OK 27 Jun (DW). Summer vagrant Greater White-fronted Geese lingered in *Ellsworth*, KS 6-7 Jun (DK), *Rooks*, KS 7 Jun (JVK), *Lancaster*, NE 2 Jun (LE), and in *Keith*, NE 4 Jun (JGJ); an injured bird was in *Johnston*, OK 23 Jul (JRo). Mid-summer Snow Goose stragglers in Kansas included 2-3 in *Ford* 22-24 Jul (JC) and one in *Edwards* 15 Jun (JC, KG); no fewer than 66 such stragglers were in Nebraska (*fide* WRS). As summering Snow Geese increase in numbers in Nebraska, so do occasional Ross's Geese; singles were in *Lancaster* through 19 Jun (LE) and in *Seward* 17 Jun (GR). A Mottled Duck at Quivira 16 Jun (NG et al.) and 2 there 15 Jul (J&JL) were the first there since 2011 (*fide* JK). A Cinnamon Teal at Quivira 2 Jun (BJ) and 2 on 15 Jun (JK et al.) were at the e. edge of their range in Kansas. Vagrant waterfowl included a Green-winged Teal in *Douglas*, KS 17 Jul–25 Aug (NG, JK); a male Canvasback in *Richardson*, NE 1 Jul (JG); Ring-necked Ducks in *Seward*, NE 3 Jul (CL, *fide* JGJ) and at five locations in Kansas 6 Jun–7 Jul (*fide* JK), including singles in *Miami* 28 Jul (NV) and *Comanche*, OK 2 Jun (DG); and a Greater Scaup in *Johnson*, KS 1 Jun (MG, NV), 2 Greaters at

Among few reported in summer 2013 in Oklahoma, and rather westerly, this Short-billed Dowitcher was found 19 July at Tom Steed Reservoir, Kiowa County. ***Photograph by Joseph A. Grzybowski.***

Quivira 2 Jun (BJ) and another in *Clay*, NE 20 Jul (PD, ph.).Also lingering were a Common Goldeneye in *Wilson*, KS 4 Jun (DK), Common Mergansers in *Riley*, KS through 15 Jun (LMu) and in *Geary*, KS 22 Jun (CO, DB, m.ob.), and a surprising 3 Red-breasted Mergansers in *Brown* and *Keya Paha*, NE 3 Jul (JCa, SSc).

Summering Common Loons are usually imms.; there were 9 total birds at three locations in Kansas 22 Jun–7 Jul (*fide* JK). Tardy grebes were a Horned at McConaughy 4 Jun (JGJ) and a Western in *Stevens*, KS 2 Jun (KH, SG). Odd summer finds were an Eared Grebe in *Woodward*, OK 22 Jun and 5 Jul (JWA, CA, SJ) and an easterly Western Grebe in *Lancaster*, NE 21 Jun (LE). A Brown Pelican straggler was in *Oklahoma*, OK 1-4 Jun (JB, CE), and another wasat Quivira 21 Jul (BJ). Neotropic Cormorants n. and w. of Red Slough included 10 in *Comanche*, OK 6 Jun (JAG) and singles in *Linn*, KS 20 Jun (MM), at Quivira 19 Jul (MR), and n. to *Lancaster*, NE 4-11 Jun (LE) and *Douglas*, NE 14-16 Jul (RMa, m.ob.). The only Anhinga reported was in *Oklahoma*, OK 9-11 Jun (TU). Least Bittern is uncommon at best in the n. part of the Region, particularly in the recent drought years; reports came from *Clay*, NE, where 1-2 were found 21 Jun (PD) and 24 Jul (RMa, photo), *Douglas*, KS 2 Jun (JK), and *Miami*, KS 10 Jun (NV). Tricolored Heron is expected only in Oklahoma, where still rare away from Red Slough; one was in *Oklahoma* 1 Jun (JB) and 3 in *Alfalfa* 27 Jul (J&JL). The only Snowy Egret noted in Nebraska this season was in *Clay* 21-22 Jun (PD, RMa). Six Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, an ad. and 5 imms., managed to wander n. to Nebraska in *Clay* 20-21 Jul (PD, RMa, MW). Reports of Glossy Ibis have declined in the Region in recent years; single Glossies were in *Canadian*, OK 3-4 Jun (L&MT, CE), *Clay*, NE 20 Jun (PD, ph.), in *Rooks*, KS 2 Jun (JVK), and at Quivira 15 Jun (JK et al.). The 325 White-faced Ibis at Quivira 23 Jul (MR) made the highest tally, while the 10 in *Canadian*, OK 2 Jul (CE) provided an unusual mid-summer record there. Roseate Spoonbill was reported only from Red Slough, with a single 4-6 Jun (DA).

A pair of Ospreys in *Burt*, NE, one of which was hacked in South Dakota in 2008 (EDS, *fide* JT), continued an unfortunate pattern of unsuccessful nesting in Nebraska (*fide* JGJ, m.ob.). A Swainson's Hawk easterly in *Johnson*, KS 31 Jul (TA) was unexpected. Perhaps the only reliable site for Black Rail in the Region is Quivira; 2 were there 9 Jun (ER), and another 2 were heard at a different location in *Stafford* 15 Jun (JK et al.). There were only two reports of King Rail in the n. portion of the Region, one at Quivira 3 Jul (MR) and one in *Clay*, NE 21 Jul (SMa, RMa). Several Sandhill Cranes pairs were reported from Nebraska; the only report of young was from n. *Sioux* 14 Jun (KDy). Mid-summer reports of non-territorial Sandhill Cranes are few; 4-5 were heard over *Richardson*, NE 22 Jun (JRi), and one was in *Comanche*, OK 1 Jun–8 Jul (SH et al.; DL).

An early Black-bellied Plover was in *Rooks*, KS 22 Jul (JVK). Single American Golden-Plovers lingered until 1 Jun in *Kiowa*, OK (VF, DG) and 4 Jun in *Saline*, KS (KF, ph.).McConaughy attracted Piping Plovers, where 86 nests were located; 4 ad. Snowy Plovers and one brood were a welcome addition there (GW, *fide* SJD). Pipings were reported from several other regular Nebraska locations (*fide* JGJ). In Kansas, Piping Plover is a local summer resident only in the ne. along the Kansas River; encouraging was the presence of up to 4 in *Rooks*, KS 8 Jun–14 Aug (JVK, ph.). By 3 Jul, the Rocky Mountain B.O. team had found and marked 63 nests of Mountain Plover in *Kimball*, NE, 32 of which had hatched (LS). Nesting was a little late due to snowstorms that delayed arrival of the birds on the breeding grounds (LS). Black-necked Stilta breed more routinely in w. Oklahoma; this season, easterly reports included 6 in *Canadian* 3-25 Jun (CE) and 2 at Red Slough 27 Jun (DA). Among tardy or lingering spring shorebirds were a Spotted Sandpiper in *Comanche*, OK 2 Jun (DG), a Greater Yellowlegs in *Seward*, KS 2 Jun (KH, SG), and 2 Greaters at Quivira 15 Jun (JK et al.), while early fall arrivals were single Solitary Sandpipers in *Sheridan*, NE 29 Jun (MH) and *Clay*, NE 30 Jun (D&JP), a Greater Yellowlegs as far s. as *Canadian*, OK 26 Jun (LM, CE), and a Lesser Yellowlegs in *Clay*, NE 21 Jun (PD). A Ruddy Turnstone in *Kearney*, NE 6 Jun (TH) was tardy, as were 3 Sanderlings in *Knox*, NE 6 Jun (MB) and one at McConaughy 20 Jun (JGJ), an injured Western Sandpiper in *Ford*, KS 15 Jun (JC), and single Baird's Sandpipers in *Knox*, NE 6 Jun (MB), in *Kiowa*, OK 3 Jun (JAG), and at Quivira 15 Jun (injured; JK et al.). Also late were a Stilt Sandpipers in *Tillman*, OK 7 Jun (L&MT) a Long-billed Dowitcher in *Canadian*, OK 3 Jun (CE). The 3 Buff-breasted Sandpipers in *Tulsa*, OK 23 Jul (JSm) provided an early record. The only Short-billed Dowitchers noted during Jul were ads. in *Saunders*, NE 14 Jul (DLe) and *Kiowa*, OK 19 Jul (JAG, VF). Wilson's Phalaropes are rare during summer in most of the Region; one was in *Cimarron*, OK in mid-Jun (DW, BC, JSc), 3 were at Quivira 15 Jun (JK et al.), and singles were in *Clark*, KS 16 Jun (JC, KG), *Seward*, NE 22 Jun (SMa), and *Clay*, NE 20 Jul (PD).

The only rare gull reported was a first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull at McConaughy 4 Jun (JGJ), a late spring date. Water conditions at McConaughy were favorable for Least Tern breeding; 19 nests were located for the season (GW, *fide* SJD). Reports of Least Tern away from usual summer locations included singles westerly in *Rooks*, KS 7 Jun (JVK) and *Kimball*, NE 16 Jun (LS, *fide* JGJ). Unusual in midsummer was a Caspian Tern in *Reno*, KS 30 Jun (KG, PJ). Black Terns lingered later than usual in good numbers in Kansas; 275 were at Quivira 8 Jun (ER) and 100 in *Rooks* 7 Jun (JVK).

DOVES THROUGH PIPITS

The only Inca Doves reported were one in *Meade*, KS 18 Jun (NG) and singles in a few s. Oklahoma counties (*fide* JAG). Black-billed Cuckoo continues to be scarce in the Region; reports came from *Richardson*, NE 26 Jun (JRi) and *Dawson*, NE 1 Jul (TJW), plus eight locations in Kansas (*fide* JK) w. to *Clark* 7 Jun (GP). Burrowing Owl rarely breeds eastward in the Region; of note was a pair and a young 15 Jul in the Flint Hills of *Chase*, KS (MHe). Chuck-will's-widow continues to extend its range westward in se. Nebraska, with one in *Thayer* 11 Jul (LE). An Eastern Whip-poor-will was westerly in *Thomas*, NE 27 Jun (WM). Recent years have yielded increasing reports of westerly Ruby-throated Hummingbirds; an ad. female was present "most of the summer" in a *Scotts Bluff*, NE yard where a pair summered in 2012 (KD), and one in *Ellsworth*, KS 12 Jun was new for the local B.B.S. route (MR). Pleasantly surprising, at least 12 Calliope Hummingbirds were reported along the w. edge of the Region (*fide* WRS, JK, JAG) starting with one in *Sioux*, NE 8 Jul (HKH). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird, still a Regional "zootie," was in *Scotts Bluff* 27 Jul (KD). In all, there were about 11 reports of Rufous Hummingbird starting 11 Jul (*fide* WRS, JK, JAG), the most easterly in the Region a juv. male in *Lancaster*, NE 17 Jul (R&SW), with singles in *Sumner*, KS 21 Jul (MT) and *Cowley*, KS (no date; *fide* JK). Only Nebraska's third ever was an **Acorn Woodpecker** in *Hayes* 15 Jun (BA, *fide* TJW, ph.). The female Hairy Woodpecker with black "shoulders" reported during winter in *Scotts Bluff*, NE remained through the summer (KD). Increasing reports of Crested Caracara in Oklahoma continue, with 2 in *Jefferson* 8 Jul (DW). Unusual summer reports of non-resident Peregrine Falcon were singles in *Johnston*, OK 20 Jun (JRo) and *Comanche*, OK 4 Jul (DL), while an emaciated Peregrine Falcon picked up in *Buffalo*, NE 22 Jun and taken to Raptor Recovery (*fide* JGJ) was identified as being of the migratory subspecies *tundrius* (JGJ).

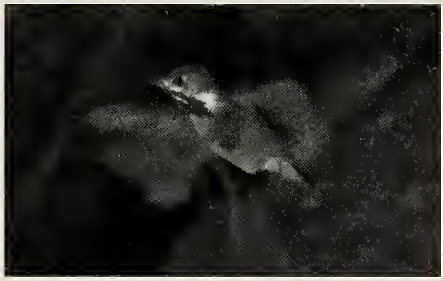
Olive-sided Flycatchers were late in *Cleveland*, OK 9 Jun (TK) and *Dawes*, NE 14 Jun (KDy). A Western Wood-Pewee in *Edwards*, KS 15 Jun (JC, KG, v.r.) was easterly. Least Flycatchers away from extreme ne. Nebraska during Jun included 2 in *Keya Paha* 19 Jun (CNK) and another in *Sarpy* 21 Jun (L&BP). A carefully identified **Dusky Flycatcher** was captured in Carter Canyon, *Scotts Bluff* 14 Jun (PD, ph.). A Say's Phoebe was easterly in *Dickinson*, KS 17 Jul (NA). Up to 3 Vermilion Flycatchers were at their Regional outpost in *Cimarron*, OK mid-Jun through 26 Jul (*fide* JAG). An Ash-throated Flycatcher in *Major*, OK 9 Jun (PJ) was unexpected there. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher nest located 25 Jul in *Gage*, NE (JRi), near the n. edge of the Regional breeding range, produced 3 juvs. (WF, MW, m.ob.). Two male Black-capped Vireos in *Canadian*, OK 11 Jun (JAG) were the first noted in this area since 1991. Yellow-throated Vireos extending westward were found in *Seward*, NE 13 Jul (RSt) and *Jefferson*, NE, a belated report, 16 Jun 2011 (CNK). Also extending westward were Red-eyed Vireos, with 10 reports from the w. half of Kansas (*fide* JK) and 1-2 in *Roger Mills*, OK 31 May (L&MT). A Chihuahuan Raven in *Seward*, KS 25 Jun (JC) was easterly. Cave Swallow is being reported increasingly in sw. Oklahoma; 1-4 were at a previous breeding location in the Wichita Mountains W.R. during the period (m.ob.), and up to 10 (on 19 Jul) were in *Kiowa*, OK 3 Jun–19 Jul (VF, JAG). Apparent post-breeding and dispersing Cave Swallows, probably from ne. Texas populations, were at Red Slough 2-31 Jul (up to 30 on 26 Jul; DA), and one appeared in *Lane*, KS 7 Jul (JC, KG; ph.). Black-crested Titmouse may be extending it range beyond extreme sw. Oklahoma; 4 were found in *Greer* 19 Jul (JAG, VF). A Pygmy Nuthatch in *Dawes*, NE 22 Jun (AK) was at the e. edge of the breeding range in Nebraska. Likewise, a small surprise was a Rock Wren in *Major*, OK 9 Jun (PJ). A Carolina Wren in *Scott*, KS 7 Jul (JC, KG) was far w. of its usual range, as was another in *Dawson*, NE 9 Jun (LR, RH). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are now extending their summer range to *Lincoln* and *Keith*, NE (TJW, JGJ). A gnatcatcher in *Meade*, KS 25 Jun (NG) was westerly; status of this species as a breeder in w. Kansas is unclear. A *fuscescens* Veery was westerly in *Dawes*, NE 1 Jun (KD, HKH), the first Panhandle record for this subspecies. Also westerly was a singing Wood Thrush in *Republic*, KS 6 Jul (PW). Continuing at the Hugoton Cemetery, *Stevens*, KS were the 2 extralimital Curve-billed Thrashers 2 Jun (KH, SG). An American Pipit in *Comanche*, OK 2 Jun (DG) was most unusual.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

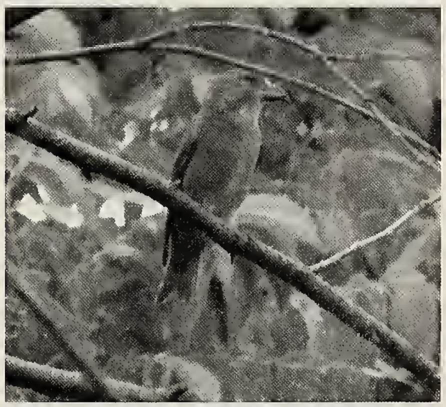
An Ovenbird in *Riley*, KS 11 Jun (JKe), 2 Louisiana Waterthrushes in *Kiowa*, OK 15 Jun (JW), and a Kentucky in *Kiowa*, KS 12 Jun (J&JL) pushed the w. boundaries of their summer ranges. Tardy migrants were a Tennessee Warbler in *Dixon*, NE 9 Jun (BFH), an Orange-crowned Warbler in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 1 Jun (RSg), and a Mourning Warbler in *Comanche*, OK 8 Jun (JAG). Also pushing westerly summer range limits were Northern Parulas in *Comanche*, OK 1-26 Jun (MC, m.ob.), *Dewey*, OK 30 May (JeR, MF, JTi), *Alfalfa*, OK 9 Jun (TE), and *Pratt*, KS 18 Jun (JC). Lingering migrants were a Blackburnian Warbler in *Douglas*, KS 7 Jun (P&MZ) and a Chestnut-sided Warbler in *Reno*, KS 5 Jun (JM). Likely part of a small breeding population in se. Oklahoma was a Black-throated Green Warbler noted in *McCurtain* 11 Jun (RS). A summer vagrant Chestnut-sided Warbler was in *Shawnee*, KS 30 Jun (HA).

A Scarlet Tanager in *Nance*, NE 18 Jul (TJW) was exceptional. Easterly for the date was a Spotted Towhee in *Seward*, NE 13 Jun paired with an Eastern Towhee (RSt); another pairing of a "hybrid" male and "probable hybrid" female with 3 juvs. was in *Rooks*, KS 29 Jul (JVK, ph.). Most *Pipilo* towhees in cen. Nebraska and nw. Kansas are intergrades to some degree. Following a spate of unexpected spring reports of Eastern Towhees far w. in *Scotts Bluff*, NE, one was there 17 Jul (KD); another westerly was in *Kiowa*, KS 22 Jun (BS, J&JL). Cassin's Sparrows making it into cen. Kansas included at least 3 at Quivira 9-15 Jun (BJ, m.ob.), 2 at Cheyenne Bottoms 10 Jun (RP), and one in *Edwards* 12 Jun (MR).

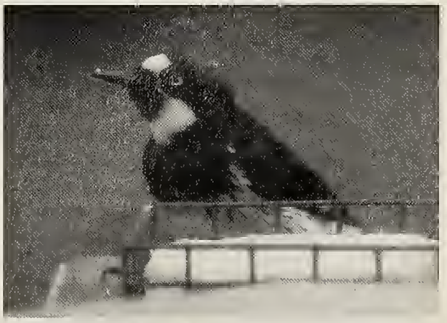
Singing Brewer's Sparrows were found away from sage habitats in *Kimball*, NE 6-20 Jun (CW, ph.). Dry conditions may have sparked a notable incursion of Lark Buntings into sw. Nebraska and w. Kansas noted on B.B.S. routes (TJW, *fide* JK). Easterly Lark Buntings in Kansas were singles in *Greenwood* through 3 Jun (AE) and in *Riley* 30 Jun (JR). Westerly were the 3 Henslow's Sparrows in *Edwards*, KS 12 Jun (MR) and single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in *Lincoln*, NE 4 Jun (TJW), *Kiowa*, KS 15 Jun (J&JL), and *Reno*, KS 3 Jul (JM). Conversely, a female Black-headed Grosbeak was easterly in *Saunders*, NE 20 Jul (MW, EA; ph.). Three Black-headeds in *Cimarron*, OK in mid-Jun (DW) were rare summer vagrants. The odd Lazuli Buntings in w. Oklahoma were single males in *Comanche* 2 (MC) & 24 Jun (JAG) and in *Major* 9 Jun (PJ), plus 2 in *Greer* 12 Jun (JAG). A male Lazuli paired with a female Indigo in *Reno*, KS produced a single egg 1-4 Jun (JM). Two Painted Buntings on the cusp of breeding range were on territory at Quivira during the season (BJ). Dickcissel numbers in w. Nebraska were lower this season (*fide* WRS), while Bobolinks, scarce breeders in cen. Kansas, were more common (*fide* JK). Two Brewer's Blackbirds in *Sheridan*,



Among a small flurry of Calliope Hummingbirds in the Great Plains in summer 2013 was this male 27 July near Boise City, Cimarron County, Oklahoma. *Photograph by Dan Robinson.*



This large-billed Red Crossbill, likely of Type 2, was found on the unlikely date of 15 June 2013 in Lincoln County, Oklahoma. *Photograph by Sheryl Rudolph.*



Certainly out of place was this Acorn Woodpecker, Nebraska's third, on the odd date of 15 June 2013 in Hayes County. *Photograph by Bryon Alberts.*

NE 5 Jun (CNK) were at the east edge of the usual summer range, as were Red Crossbills feeding a fledgling there 5 Jun (CNK). Large-billed Red Crossbills, likely Type 2, reported in all 3 states far from the usual breeding range were part of the peculiar vagrancy; 5 in *Pawnee*, KS 3 Jun (SS), 2 in *Richardson*, NE 2 Jun (JRi), and one in *Lincoln*, OK 15 Jun (SR). Additional Red Crossbill reports were of one in *Reno*, KS 4 Jun (JM) and an ad. male in *Meade*, KS 15 Jun (JC, KG). As is usual following a strong winter influx, Pine Siskins lingered into summer, most obviously in Kansas, where singles were at two *Shawnee* residences 1 Jun (JP, JMc) and 1 Jun & 6 Jul (MG), in *Leavenworth* 9 Jun (JBo), in *Edwards* 15 Jun (JC, KG), and as many as 11 at a *Johnson* feeder 1-16 Jun (DBa). Lesser Goldfinch recently expanded its summer range into the w. Nebraska Panhandle and continues to be found in a few favored *Scotts Bluff*, NE locations; at least 11 were found 14 Jun–25 Jul (PD, JGJ).

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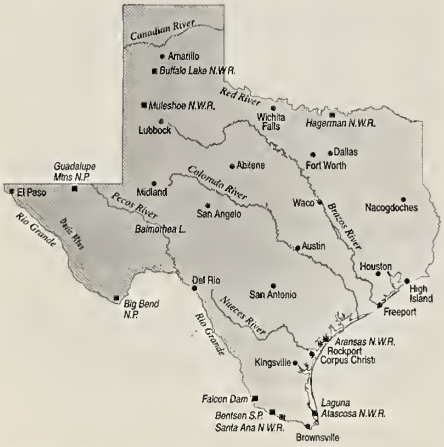

Mark W. Lockwood
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As has been the case for the past three years, drought conditions were strongly in place in many areas of the state. The Panhandle south through all of central Texas to the South Texas Brush Country were particularly dry. Precipitation in the Trans-Pecos was even spottier than usual, with some areas such as the higher elevations of the Davis Mountains getting roughly the long-term average, while much of the surrounding grassland received roughly one third of the normal total. Rainfall on the Upper Texas Coast was equally unpredictable, with a staggering example of 22 cm of rain on the northern edge of Houston while the south side of the city only received 75 mm. A very predictable result of these long-term dry conditions is the lowering of reservoirs in Central Texas, which oddly provided large areas of virtually unvegetated dry flats that seemed to be used by Snowy Plovers in unexpectedly high numbers. Similar conditions present at irrigation reservoirs in the El Paso area resulted in some very high numbers of migrant shorebirds. A change in avian distribution that seems flat-out weird is the decline in Bewick's Wrens in the eastern South Plains that is coinciding with the expansion of Carolina Wrens in urban habitats, at least within Lubbock. Overall, this season was lackluster; few observers seemed to be out and about, but as with every season, a few surprises were found. Despite the fact that the migration period of Western Wood-Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, and MacGillivray's Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler normally includes the first few days of June, all of these species were present in the northwestern portion of the state in well-above-expected numbers during the first week of June this year.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SPOONBILL

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks wandered n. of the current breeding range, with one at Amarillo, *Potter* 12 Jun (MLe) and 2 at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 12-15 Jul (RR, CCa, CrC, AH). Lingering geese included up to 2 Snow Geese at Lake McGee, *Potter* 2-4 Jun (CCa, MEl) and a Ross's Goose at El Paso, *El Paso* 7 Jun (ph. JSp). A male Wood Duck was present in Lubbock, *Lubbock* 1 Jun–17 Jul (CCa), where the species is not known to nest. A very worn Greater Scaup was near Hearne, *Robertson* 21 Jun–6 Jul (ph. RL, BW, JBe, SaL), providing a first county record. A total surprise was a female Hooded Merganser at El Paso, *El Paso* 11 Jun (BZ), making a first summer record for the county and the greater El Paso area; a breeding pair at the Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary, *Collin* was outside of the known breeding range (CFr). A very late Red-breasted Merganser was studied at Lake Somerville, *Lee* 7 Jun (DB, LB), while lingering or injured birds were also noted at Rockport, *Aransas* 8 Jun (TZ) and Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 30 Jun (BrF).

A molting Pacific Loon was present at Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 30 Jun–3 Jul (BrF). A Least Grebe near Spring Branch, *Blanco* 27-28 Jul (ph. m.ob., LL) provided a rare record for the Hill Country. The breeding-plumaged Horned Grebe found in the spring at Freeport, *Brazoria* was present until 28 Jul (ph. JF et al.). A Western Grebe at Lake Palo Duro, *Hansford* 18 Jun (MEl) provided a very rare summer record for the Panhandle, but even more surprising were

This adult Royal Tern appeared at Lake Travis, Travis County, Texas 24 June 2013. Royal Tern is virtually accidental in Texas away from the immediate coast, and many of the inland records are associated with tropical cyclones that make landfall from the Gulf of Mexico. However, dozens of records of this species from the interior of North America show no clear association with displacement by storms and defy easy explanation. *Photograph by Kenny Anderson.*

one at Braunig Lake, *Bexar* 11 Jun (ph. ChC) and another at Calaveras Lake, *Bexar* 15-16 Jun (ShC, MRe). One of the more fantastic sightings of the season was an imm. Magnificent Frigatebird at Joe Poole Lake, *Dallas* 10 Jul (LW). Two Neotropic Cormorants were at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 1 Jun–31 Jul (CCa, StC, AH), and another was at White River Lake, *Crosby* 13 Jul (AH), where the species has been found more frequently in recent years. American White Pelicans lingered in larger-than-normal numbers along the Upper Texas Coast (hereafter, U.T.C.), with a notable high count of 200 at Rollover Pass, *Galveston* 13 Jun (JKe); more unexpected were 200 at Cedar Creek Lake, *Kaufman* through the period (DDC, DL). A late American Bittern was at John Bunker Sands Wetlands Center, *Kaufman* 2 Jun (GC); a surprise was one at Austin, *Travis* 13 Jul (MRo). Three Least Bitterns were found at Cement Creek Lake, *Tarrant* 28 Jul (EW). Tricolored Herons made a good showing in the Trans-Pecos this season, with singles near Marathon, *Brewster* 20 Jun (HT, MY), Chaffee Road pond, *El Paso* 23 Jul+ (ph. DAB), and McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 26 Jul+ (ph. JP). Also of interest was one at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 27-31 Jul (CCa, CrC et al.). A Glossy Ibis showed up at Southside W.T.P., *Dallas* 13 Jul (DHa). Roseate Spoonbills made a nice showing in n.-cen. Texas, with one at the Southside W.T.P., *Dallas* 4 Jul (EW), 4 at the Trinity River Audubon Center, *Dallas* 20 Jul (BJ), one in *Navarro* 26 Jul (ShL), and another at the Fort Worth Nature Center, *Tarrant* 27 Jul (MWh).

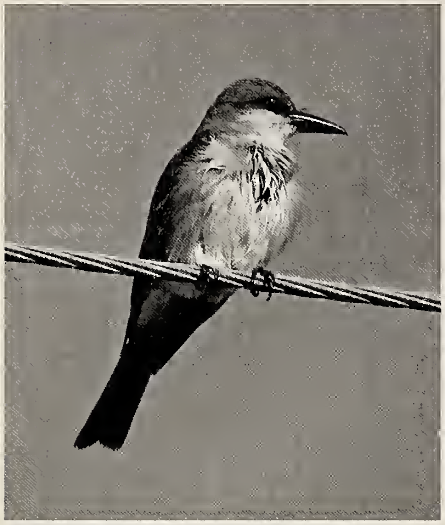
VULTURES THROUGH TERNS

A Black Vulture at McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 22 Jul (ph. JP, LS) was at the westernmost point where this species has been seen in Texas. An Osprey was noted attending a nest at Toledo Bend Reservoir, *Sabine* 21 Jun (JJ, LJ), and a pair successfully fledged 3 young at Lake Sam Rayburn, *Nacogdoches* (DW). A pair of Swallow-tailed Kites spotted at Livingston, *Polk* 11-17 Jul (CE) could have been migrants or local breeders. A White-tailed Kite near Valley Spring, *Llano* 16 Jun (BSt) was a nice find, while a pair near Warren, *Tyler* 11 Jun (CS) was also of interest. A Northern Harrier at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* 30 Jul (JSp) made for a notable local summer record. An out-of-range Red-shouldered Hawk was at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 9 Jun (CCa). A rather vocal Zone-tailed Hawk was at Bastrop, *Bastrop* 24 Jun (BrF).

A Purple Gallinule was locally rare at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 2-7 Jul (JC, KW). An unexpected high count of 400 Black-necked Stilts was made at McNary Reservoir, *El Paso* 22 Jul (JP, LS). A very late breeding-plumaged American Golden-Plover was on Galveston Island, *Galveston* 10 Jun (ph. AW, SW, JH). An incredibly high count of 130+ Snowy Plovers was found at Hubbard Creek Reservoir, *Stephens* 10-11 Jun (BrF). A pair of Snowy Plovers successfully fledged 2 young at Fort Hancock Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 16 Jun–3 Aug (ph. JP) providing the first confirmed breeding record in the El Paso area. Also of interest were Snowy Plovers taking advantage of habitat created by the drought conditions, with one at Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir, *Bell* 29 Jun (RP), 2 there 23-25 Jul (RP), 3 at Lake Travis, *Travis* 27 Jul (RK), and 13 near Brady Lake, *McColloch* 20 Jul (BSt, EF). Single migrant Piping Plovers visited Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 18 Jul (KA) and Lake Travis, *Travis* 19 Jul (AMo). An exceptionally early Upland Sandpiper at Brazoria N.W.R., *Brazoria* 19 Jun (ph. LH) represents a new early arrival date for fall on the U.T.C. Two lingering Whimbrels were present on Mustang Island, *Nueces* 14 Jun (CL), while a very early migrant was found at Sea Rim S.P., *Jefferson* 13 Jul (BL, RW). A group of 4 Long-billed Curlews at Lake McGee, *Potter* 2 Jun (CCa) were s. of the known breeding areas in the nw. Panhandle. An early migrant Marbled Godwit was found at Rio Farms, *Carson* 14 Jul (BP), while other early migrants of the season were noted at Fort Hancock Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 22 Jun (JP), Ascarate Lake, *El Paso* 25 Jun (DAB), and South Padre Island, *Cameron* 30 Jun (ph. MBS). Three lingering migrant Ruddy Turnstones were at John Bunker Sands Wetlands Center, *Kaufman* 2 Jun (GC). A remarkable total of 121 Stilt Sandpipers was counted at McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 26 Jul (JP). A very early Baird's Sandpiper at Quintana, *Brazoria* 11 Jul (JKe) represented a new early return date for fall on the U.T.C. A late migrant White-rumped Sandpiper was w. to McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 16 Jun (JP), while singles at Smyer Playa, *Hockley* 29 Jun (CCa) and Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir, *Bell* 2 Jul (ph. GE) are harder to categorize. White-rumped Sandpipers at Quintana, *Brazoria* 11 Jul (JKe) and near Boca Chica, *Cameron* 23 Jul (ph. DJ) may have been present all summer. A notable summer count of up to 80 Wilson's Phalaropes was made at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 3 Jul (MC), and 15 were at Brazoria N.W.R., *Brazoria* 16 Jul (RW).

An ad. Laughing Gull was at McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 10 Jul (ph. JP). Twenty Franklin's Gulls at San Antonio, *Bexar* 7 Jun (WS) was a large flock for such late migrants. A worn Herring Gull summered at Lake Walter E. Long, *Travis* 4 Jun–3 Jul (KA); another was present only briefly at Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir, *Bell* 29-30 Jul (GE). Still rather rare in summer, Lesser Black-backed Gulls are certainly increasing: singles were at Bryan Beach, *Brazoria* 7 Jun (RW), Rollover Pass, *Galveston* 11 Jul (JKe), North Padre Island, *Nueces* 12 Jul (JM), Follett's Island, *Brazoria* 16 Jul (SH), Bolivar Flats 23 Jul (JTh), and San Luis Pass, *Galveston* 27 Jul (BSt). Typically unexpected away from the immediate coast, a Least Tern was a nice find at Arthur Storey Park, *Harris* 3 Jun (SG). Across the state, another Least Tern was noteworthy at McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 16 Jun (JP). At least 8 Gull-billed Terns were present at Choke Canyon S.P., *McMullen* 28 Jul, with two pairs feeding single young (WS). Three Caspian Terns dropped in at Fort Hancock Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 22 Jun (ph. JP). A rather high early summer tally of 118 Black Terns was reported from a field along

For almost a decade, Broad-billed Hummingbirds were rare summer residents in the upper elevations of the Davis Mountains of Texas. However, in the past three years, Broad-billed, along with White-eared Hummingbirds, have virtually disappeared from this area, possibly as a result of the extended drought. In summer 2013, only one adult male was found in the Davis Mountains Resort, Jeff Davis County 7 (here) through 31 July. *Photograph by Kelly Bryan.*



This Gray Kingbird attracted much attention during its short visit to Palacios, Matagorda County 2 (here) and 3 July 2013. It provided the eleventh record for Texas. *Photograph by Bob Friedrichs.*

FM 1985, *Chambers* 8 Jun (SM). Three Forster's Terns at Lake McGee, *Potter* 2 Jun (CCa) were exceptionally late migrants. Inexplicable were inland Royal Terns found at Lake Travis, *Travis* 24 Jun (ph. KA) and Kurth Lake, *Angelina* 2 Jun (LD); no storms were active that might have pushed them inland from the coast.

PIGEONS THROUGH FALCONS

Expanding their e. range, a White-winged Dove was observed in *Wood* 14 Jul (BSm). Young Long-eared Owls from the two nests found in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* during the spring season fledged by late Jun and could not be relocated (*fide* RK). Pushing the n. limit of their range was a vocalizing Common Pauraque near Utley, *Bastrop* 15-27 Jun (BrF). In sharp contrast to recent years, rains in Jun greatly benefited the reproductive success of the Lucifer Hummingbird population in the Christmas and Chisos Mountains, *Brewster* (KB). Black-chinned Hummingbirds were well e. of normal range near Jarvis College W.M.A., *Wood* 7 & 26 Jul (TM, LP), at Lake Fork, *Wood* 21 Jul (MWe), and near College Station, *Brazos* from the spring until 17 Jul (HB, JBa). An ad. female Anna's Hummingbird was banded at the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* 12 Jul (ph. KB), providing only the sixth summer record for the state. A male Broad-billed Hummingbird visited the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* 7 Jul (KB), and possibly the same individual was at a separate location irregularly 9-31 Jul (ME, MEa). A male White-eared Hummingbird was discovered away from feeders in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 27-28 Jun (ph. MY, HT). A female Green Kingfisher was at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 27 Jul (KO). A Red-headed Woodpecker was unexpected in w. El Paso 29 Jun–9 Jul (ph. JP, m.ob.), representing a fifth *El Paso* record and the second for summer. Acorn Woodpecker continues to consolidate its foothold in El Paso, with birds at a handful of sites and 2 young spotted 24 Jun (LS) several km from where the species was first confirmed breeding last year. A pair of seemingly territorial Ladder-backed Woodpeckers reported along Longenbaugh Rd. on the Katy Prairie 27 Jul may represent a first breeding effort for *Harris* (RW). A Ladder-backed Woodpecker at College Station in mid-Jul (MA, HAP) is rare for *Brazos* and the only one reported since 1998. A pair of American Kestrels reported from FM 1488, *Waller* 30 Jun (AMo) represents a rare summer record for the U.T.C. A pair of American Kestrels lingered at Carter Lake, *Brazos* through the end of the period (m.ob.), where the species has not been documented as nesting since before 1940. A Peregrine Falcon at Austin, *Travis* 14 Jul+ (m.ob.) was a rare find for the summer season.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

The latest report of Olive-sided Flycatcher came from Plano, *Collin* 15 Jun (PA). An Acadian Flycatcher at Blucher Park, *Nueces* 31 Jul (LJ) was a bit early. A summer report of Willow Flycatcher at Peach Creek, *Brazos* 27 Jul (DV) was rare for the cen. Brazos Valley. A Gray Flycatcher at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 15 Jul (CCa) and a Cordilleran Flycatcher also at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 2 Jun (AH, StC) made exceptional summer records. Not expected in the summer was a Say's Phoebe near Hunt, *Kerr* 30 Jun (TG). A single Vermilion Flycatcher was in *Palo Pinto* 7 Jun (CrC). Brown-created Flycatchers appear to be expanding northward, and this season 5 were at Bastrop S.P., *Bastrop* through at least 20 Jun (BrF), while one from the spring at Stockpen Crossing Park, *Menard* was seen through 3 Jul (SS); a pair was present near Elroy, *Travis* 9 Jun–4 Jul (KA). The highlight of the season in the Trans-Pecos was a one-day wonder **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** at the Christmas Mountains Oasis, *Brewster* 16 Jun (DH, †COJ et al.). The pair of resident Tropical Kingbirds on Pelican Island, *Galveston* continued through the period (JKe). A family of Tropical Kingbirds in the Corpus Christi area 12 Jul included at least 3 juvs., constituting a second breeding record for *Nueces* (MC). A **Gray Kingbird** present at Palacios, *Matagorda* 2-3 Jul provided some much-needed summer excitement (ph. BoF, RF, †m.ob.). An imm. Rose-throated Becard was seen at Santa Ana N.W.R., *Hidalgo* 19 Jul (ph. DJ). An excellent find pushing its e. range was a Black-capped Vireo in e. *Parker* 19 Jun (OC). Black-capped Vireos nested successfully at Honey Creek S.N.A., *Comal* (*fide* CH). A vocal Yellow-throated Vireo was found at the Boy Scout Camp in nw. *Jeff Davis* 2-4 Jul (ph. PP). A migrant Plumbeous Vireo at El Paso 1 Jun (BZ) was late, while a singing male was apparently on territory near Boot Spring, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 8 Jun (MLo, PS), where the species is not known to nest. Single Yellow-green Vireos were noted at two different tracts of the Lower Rio Grande Valley N.W.R., *Hidalgo* 12 & 17 Jun; 2 were in the Cannon Road tract 9 Jul (TB, JBr); and 2 were reported throughout the season at Resaca de la Palma, *Cameron* (m.ob.). Two Fish Crows were unexpected in se. *Van Zandt* 7 Jul (PB), as were 3 at Woodlawn Country Club, *Grayson* 11 Jul (JS). A pair of Tree Swallows successfully nested at Baytown Nature Center, *Harris* 20 Jun (DH, GP et al.). Several lingering Tree Swallows were reported from Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 13 Jun, raising the question of nesting activity in the area (JKe).

VERDIN THROUGH WARBLERS

An out-of-place Verdin was near Lockhart, *Caldwell* 23 Jun (BrF). A White-breasted Nuthatch near Holland, *Bell* 15 Jun (RP) was an encouraging sign and the first summer sighting in more than two years at this nesting location. A Swainson's Thrush made an unexpected appearance at El Paso, *El Paso* 16 Jun (ph. JP). Also late was a Hermit Thrush there 4 Jun (BZ). A singing Gray Catbird at Pearland, *Brazoria* 22 Jun (DS) represents an interesting summer record and may suggest a breeding attempt. The Brown Thrasher from spring at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* continued through 8 Jun (JSp) for a rare summer record. Brown Thrashers successfully nested in woodlots along the

Although there are more than twenty records of Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher for Texas, only two come from the mountains of the Trans-Pecos. This obliging bird provided the second of those during its brief visit to the Christmas Mountains, Brewster County 16 June 2013. *Photograph by Mark W. Lockwood.*

Finding a Blackpoll Warbler in midsummer in Texas is unexpected, if not unprecedented. Two were found in summer 2013, including this female at Converse, Bexar County 24 June. *Photograph by Ann Mallard.*

coast at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 2 Jun (SM) and Lafitte's Cove, *Galveston* Jul 26 (DH, JTh et al.).

A Louisiana Waterthrush near Newport, *Harris* 27 Jun (GP) may have been a post-breeding wanderer or an exceptionally early migrant. A Black-and-white Warbler at Quinta Mazatlan, *Hidalgo* 15 Jun (ph. MBS) provided a very rare summer record for the Lower Rio Grande Valley. A male Black-and-white Warbler was seen with a female near White River Lake, *Crosby* 13 Jul (AH, RR). A Colima Warbler was spotted at the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 24 Jun (RK). A pair of Common Yellowthroats was present through the period at Peach Creek, *Brazos* (DV), suggesting local nesting. A female Hooded Warbler at El Paso, *El Paso* 4 Jun (ph. BZ) was locally rare, and one at South Padre Island, *Cameron* 7 Jul (BB) was early. An American Redstart at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 1 Jun (CCa, StC) was late; one at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 13-20 Jul (EC) is hard to explain. A vigorously singing Yellow Warbler in nw. *Jeff Davis* 8 Jun (MC) may have been on territory. Out-of-season **Blackpoll Warblers** included one at Converse, *Bexar* 24 Jun (ph. AMa) and one near Seadrift, *Calhoun* 28 Jun (ND). A Myrtle Warbler at Yellowhouse Canyon, *Lubbock* 1 Jun (CCa, StC) was quite late, while an Audubon's Warbler at El Paso, *El Paso* 17-19 Jul (ph. BZ) was the first for Jul in the El Paso area. A Townsend's Warbler at El Paso, *El Paso* 18 Jul (JKi) was extremely early if a fall migrant. Always a nice find in n.-cen. Texas, a Golden-cheeked Warbler was found slightly e. of its normal range at Cleburne S.P., *Johnson* 10 Jun (JSi), and another was found at Palo Pinto Mountains S.P., *Palo Pinto* 18 Jun (JSi). Although there are several mid-summer records of Black-throated Green Warbler for Texas, one at Boot Spring, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 24 Jun (ph. DJ) was quite unexpected. The Rufous-capped Warbler at Chalk Bluff Park, *Uvalde* was last reported 8 Jun (m.ob.). Despite the drought and wildfires, Painted Redstarts continue to nest in the Davis Mountains. This season, two pairs were located in the upper reaches of the Davis Mountains Resort (KB, RP), and a hatch-year bird was noted in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 2 Aug (MLo). The Painted Redstart near Hunt, *Kerr* remained until at least 10 Jul (TG, CC).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Quite unseasonable was a Clay-colored Sparrow banded at Christoval, *Tom Green* 13 Jul (ph. CFl). A heard-only Summer Tanager at Paradise Pond, *Nueces* 5 Jul (MB) was odd for the date and barrier island location. Two pairs of Summer Tanagers were at White River Lake, *Crosby* 13 Jul (AH, RR) following last summer's first documented nesting for the region. The male **Flame-colored Tanager** found during the spring season continued at Boot Spring, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* until at least 7 Jul (ph., m.ob.). It paired with a Western Tanager, and fledglings were reported in early Jul. A male Northern Cardinal was seen sporadically through the period at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* (JSp), and another was in w. El Paso 22 Jul (JP); the species is a casual visitor there. A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at El Paso, *El Paso* 12 Jul (ph. BZ) was very hard to categorize. Black-headed Grosbeak does not breed in *El Paso*, but stray birds are occasionally seen throughout the summer; a male in w. El Paso 3 Jul (JKi) fit well with this pattern. A singing male Indigo Bunting was at the Frijole Ranch site in Guadalupe Mountains N.P., *Culberson* 4 Jun (MC). A pair of Varied Buntings was at Bentsen S.P., *Hidalgo* 14 Jun–30 Jul (TB, JBr), where they are very rare nesters. A male Hooded Oriole was near Marathon, *Brewster* 8 Jun (MC), and a pair nested at Rockport, *Aransas* (DC), providing a new county breeding record. A pair of Baltimore Orioles at Austin, *Texas* 21 Jun (ph. JTi, LM) hinted at perhaps breeding, though there were no additional sightings of these birds. Three Pine Siskins were present throughout the summer in the upper reaches of the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* (KB), but there was no evidence of nesting, while one lingered at Arlington, *Tarrant* until 6 Jun (DDC), and one was at Nacogdoches, Nacogdoches 7-8 Jul (TD). A late summer American Goldfinch near Georgetown, *Williamson* 22 Jul (VF) was apparently lost.

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Colorado & Wyoming

Yellowstone N.P.
Cody
Sheridan
Powder R.
Sundance
WYOMING
Jackson
Big Horn R.
Casper
Fontenelle Dam
Rock Springs
Green R.
North Platte R.
Cheyenne
Crow Valley C.G.
Pawnee National Grassland
Fort Collins
South Platte R.
Boulder
Denver
COLORADO
Colorado R.
Grand Junction
Colorado Springs
Gunnison
Pueblo
Arkansas R.
Lamar
La Junta
John Martin Res.
Two Buttes Res.
San Luis Valley
Monte Vista N.W.R.
Durango
Baca County

Tony Leukering
Steven G. Mlodinow
Matt Fraker

June saw relative-to-recent-summers coolness creep into the Region, as Wyoming's Belle Fourche drainage reported near-normal temperatures. The remainder of the Region was still at least above normal in June, with all but the northeastern quadrant of Colorado being much warmer than normal. This cooler trend continued into July, when Colorado's eastern plains and Wyoming's Platte drainage all reported near-normal temperatures; only West Slope Colorado and Wyoming's Green and Bear and Yellowstone drainages recorded much-above-normal temps. In concert with the Belle Fourche's cooler temperatures came rain, with the drainage reporting a much-wetter-than-normal June. In addition, its southern drainage neighbor, the Cheyenne and Niobrara, reported near-normal precipitation that month, while the diagonal southeastern half of Colorado had "just" below-normal precipitation; most of the rest of the Region saw much-below or record lowest precipitation totals in June. In contrast, only Wyoming's Big Horn drainage reported below-normal precipitation in July; the rest of the Region was near normal or above normal in rainfall, with West Slope Colorado and the Cheyenne and Niobrara drainages both being much wetter than normal.

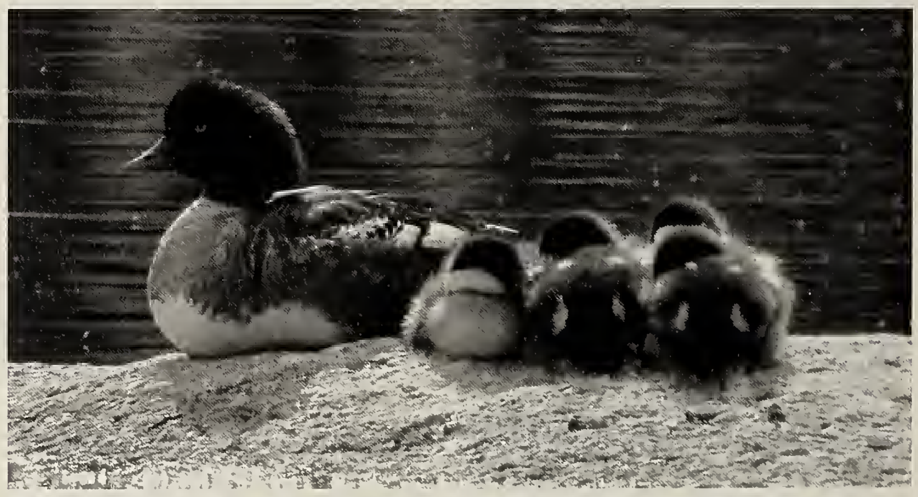
Wyoming's highlights included a long-overdue first Black Swift record and a territorial Winter Wren. Colorado had an explosion of rarities from the south, including four first state records and one second state record. Understandably, this led to much speculation about a unifying cause, some "event." However, it is difficult to see what single phenomenon (outside, perhaps, global warming in general) that would have led to birds as diverse as Sandwich Tern and Brown-crested Flycatcher landing on Coloradan turf. A plethora of late-staying mid-summer waterbirds were recorded this season, species normally not found at such southerly latitudes during June and July.

In recent years, multiple eastern taxa have been inching westward along the east-west river systems in Colorado. These riversheds were unforested some 150 years ago, but many are now well-vegetated riparian corridors. As Eastern Hairy Woodpeckers (*P. v. villosus* group), Eastern Warbling Vireos (*V. g. gilvus*), Eastern White-breasted Nuthatches (*S. c. carolinensis*), and others expand westward, new contact zones between closely related taxa are arising, all worthy of careful study.

Abbreviations: Barr (Barr Lake and S.P., *Adams*); Crow Valley (Crow Valley campground, Pawnee National Grasslands, *Weld*); DeWeese (DeWeese Reservoir, *Custer*); Fontanelle (Fontanelle migrant trap, *Sweetwater*, WY); Grand Teton (Grand Teton N.P., *Teton*, WY); Jackson (Jackson Reservoir and S.P., *Morgan*); Lower Latham (Lower Latham Reservoir, *Weld*); Plains (plains of Colorado); Prewitt (Prewitt Reservoir, *Washington* unless noted); Tamarack (Tamarack Ranch S.W. A., *Logan*); West Slope (west of the Rockies); Yellowstone (Yellowstone N.P., *Park/Teton*, WY). Due to reporting biases, all locations can be assumed to be in Colorado except that each Wyoming location is noted as such the first time it appears in text. Only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying cited records are identified here. Undocumented reports from Colorado of Colorado B.R.C. (C.B.R.C.) review species (<www.cfo-link.org>) that are deemed probably correct are summarized at the end of this report.

GEESE THROUGH IBIS

It was a banner season for summering geese. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Prewitt 14-17 Jul (SGM, DD) may have been a first for summer in Colorado. Two Cackling Geese present from spring into fall at Longmont, *Boulder* (m.ob.) and a single Cackling Goose in w. *Adams* 28 Jun (ph. B. Marvil) added to fewer than five Colorado summer records. Similarly rare was a Lesser Canada Goose (*B. c. parvipes*) 29 Jun+ at Longmont (SGM). White geese, however, are nearly annual during summer. This year's haul included a single Snow Geese in montane *Archuleta* 14-15 Jun (H. Taliaferro) and another on the Plains in *Sedgwick* 6 Jul (B. Kaempfer), while a Ross's Goose joined the *Archuleta* Snow Goose 15 Jun (E. Allen). Mute Swans in *Weld*, one at St. Vrain S.P. from spring throuhg 28 Sep (m.ob.) and 2 at Lower Latham 26 Jun (SGM), provide more grist for the provenance mill. Large, dark dabbling ducks were also well represented. A female **Mottled Duck** at Andrick Ponds S.W.A., *Morgan* 28 Jul (ph SGM, DD) would provide an overdue first for Colorado, after a number of reports and apparently incorrectly identified specimens (cf. Bailey and Niedrach 1965; Andrews and Righter 1992; Leukering and Mlodinow 2012). The species has become rare but regular in neighboring Kansas in recent years and so was expected. The spate of Mexican Ducks continues, with males noted in *Weld* at Greeley 30 Jun and at Loloff Reservoir 13 Jul and at Big Johnson 3 Jul (all †SGM), while single apparent Mallard x Mexican Duck hybrids were with the Greeley Mexican Duck and at Prewitt 17 Jul (SGM, AC, SW). Individual dabbler hybrids included a female Blue-winged Teal x Cinnamon Teal 16 Jun at Lower Latham


Echo Lake, Clear Creek County, Colorado supported breeding Barrow's Goldeneyes for the second consecutive year, at least 23 June through 10 August (here 31 July) 2013. The previous year's breeding was the first such in Colorado away from The Flattops area in the northwestern quadrant of the state, primarily in Garfield County, for at least a century. A feature obvious in this photograph is the typically dusky bill of breeding-season female Barrow's Goldeneyes, a feature underappreciated by birders and one that often results in misidentification. *Photograph by Dan Sparks-Jackson.*

(ph. SGM, DD) and a male Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler 13 Jul at Duck Lake, *Larimer* (SGM), while the only diving duck hybrid noted was a Ring-necked Duck x Lesser Scaup 7 Jul at Walden Reservoir, *Jackson* (SGM, NM). Six Greater Scaup at the Laramie Plains Lakes, *Albany* 4 Jun (SB, N. Sly) provided just the fourth Wyoming summer record. Bufflehead and Common Goldeneye are both rare on the Plains and in most of Wyoming in summer. Thus of interest were singles of both at Big Johnson from spring into fall (m.ob.); Wyoming Buffleheads in *Hot Springs* 3 Jun (2; G. Wee) and at Farson, *Sweetwater* 10 Jul (one; D. Lambeth); a Common Goldeneye near Frederick, *Weld* 18 Jun (SGM); and an impressive seasonal Wyoming Common Goldeneye showing, with 4 in *Albany* and 2 each in *Fremont* and *Teton*. For the ninth straight summer, Common Goldeneyes summered at Sands Lake, *Chaffee*, with up to 6 present through at least 25 Jun (S. York). Most interestingly, a male and at least 3 females were noted at Echo Lake, *Clear Creek* through 23 Jun (m.ob.). For the second straight year, Barrow's Goldeneyes bred at Echo Lake, with at least 6 ducklings noted 13 Jul (m.ob.). Rare in Colorado in summer, 1-3 Hooded Mergansers were noted at 11 Plains locations, but the truly odd seasonal occurrences were in the mountains: 2 female-plumaged birds at DeWeese 18 Jun (RM) and one at Antero Reservoir, *Park* 23 Jun (A. Driscoll). Adding to just a handful of Colorado breeding records was an ad. female Hooded Merganser with 5 fresh-plumaged juvs. near St. Vrain S.P. 5 Jul (SGM), while a single in Yellowstone, *Teton* 19 Jun (J. Deitsch) added to fewer than 20 Wyoming summer reports.

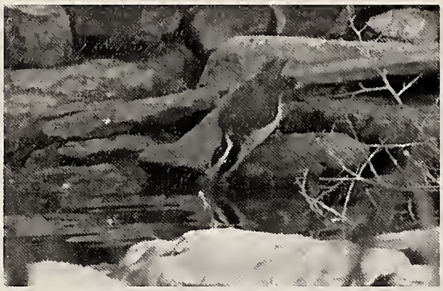
The **Pacific Loon** found in late May at Big Johnson (NM) stayed through the summer until at least 11 Sep (m.ob.), providing only the fourth Colorado summer record (previous in 1999 and 2010 in *Boulder*, 2001 in *Larimer*). Common Loon is much more regular in summer, but 4 in Colorado (*Fremont*, *Larimer*, *Logan*, *Routt*) was a bit better showing than typical. In addition to odd diving ducks and the aforementioned loon, Big Johnson also hosted a summering **Horned Grebe** in breeding plumage (m.ob.), just the fourth Colorado summer record; one in Yellowstone 17 Jul (J. Ranson) was also quite rare. An ad. **Red-necked Grebe** graced Walden Reservoir, *Jackson* 13-14 Jul (CH); the only antecedent Colorado summer record was in 2003 in *Weld*. Walden Reservoir is the site of the largest Colorado Eared Grebe colony, as evidenced by the 1155 noted there 7 Jul (SGM, NM); previous seasons' counts have ranged upward to 750 pairs (Andrews and Righter 1992). Hybrid *Aechmophorus* were noted in *Custer*, *Jackson*, *Larimer*, and *Weld*, while future hybrids were noted at St. Vrain S.P., where a mixed pair attending the same nest was seen 4 Jul (all SGM). Last summer's Least Bitterns apparently returned to the Holcim Wetlands, *Fremont* 2 Jun (D. Adams) with a nest and, apparently, at least one juv. seen by mid-Jul (m.ob.). A bit more surprising was the second-year female that turned up in *Boulder* 13 Jun (ph. CN), providing just the thirteenth record for that heavily birded county. Reports of Great Egrets in the mountains and Wyoming, where rare, came from Cokeville Meadows N.W.R., *Lincoln*, WY 12 Jun (one; TK), Antero Reservoir 21 Jun (one; TF), Monte Vista N.W.R., *Rio Grande* 24 Jun (3; M. Shoop), and Seedskadee N.W.R., *Lincoln*, WY 1 Jul (5; TK). An ad. Little Blue Heron was photographed 6 Jun at Cherry Creek Reservoir (K. Rasmussen) traveling with Snowy Egrets; there are sporadic summer records at and near Plains colonies of Snowy Egrets that suggest local breeding, but the only Colorado nesting record came from the San Luis Valley in 1988. The Least Bitterns at Holcim Wetlands attracted many birders, with one result being the finding of an ad. Tricolored Heron (not in breeding condition) 14 Jun–7 Jul (ph. S. Moss), a first for *Fremont*. Another visited Lake Hasty, *Bent* 23-24 Jun (JD et al.). A white-morph Reddish Egret apparently wandered around se. Colorado, visiting Adobe Creek Reservoir, *Kiowa* 5-6 Jul (DuN), Lake Meredith, *Crowley* 13 Jul (DD), and Lake Hasty and Verhoeff Reservoir, both in *Bent*, 20-26 Jul (DuN); three of the 11 previous state Reddish Egret records are of white birds. An ad. Glossy Ibis at Loloff Reservoir, *Weld* 17 Jul (SGM, SW) provided one of very few summer Plains records, while three reports of White-faced Ibis in nw. Wyoming, where rare, came from Yellowstone (M. Stackhouse) and Grand Teton (V. L. Kirby).

KITES THROUGH TERNS

An Osprey, very rare in summer on the Plains, visited Neegronda Reservoir, *Kiowa* 22 Jun (SGM, DD). Laggard Broad-winged Hawks were noted through 7 Jun (*Prowers*; D. Russell), but an ad. in *Boulder* 5-27 Jun (CN) was suspected of nesting locally. A Sandhill Crane pair with a colt at Table Mountain W. M. A., *Goshen* 7 Jun (MF) provided a first breeding record for that Wyoming county. A tally of 68 Black-necked Stilts at Loloff Reservoir, *Weld* 14 Jul (SGM, DD) likely provided a new Colorado high count. Two Black-necked Stilts were at abnormally high elevation at DeWeese 1 Jun (MP, SGM, DM), but this is the third consecutive spring of occurrence at the site. American Avocets were unusually numerous in nw. Wyoming, where typically quite scarce, with 10 reports of at least 9 birds in Yellowstone (*Park* and *Teton*) and Grand Teton. Avocet numbers were also high in Colorado, with tallies of 315 at Lake Henry 15 Jul (DD) and 244 at Loloff Reservoir 17-20 Jul (SGM, SW). A **Black-bellied Plover** 16 Jun near Prewitt (DD, SGM) was quite late and may have been the same bird present 30 Jun at Prewitt (SGM); eBird notes only two previous Jun/Jul Colorado records. **American Golden-Plover** is a rare spring and uncommon fall migrant in the Region, but one at Prewitt 14-18 Jul (first-summer bird; DD, SGM) was seasonally unprecedented in Colorado. An ad. Snowy Plover was seasonally rare in Wyoming at Goldeneye Reservoir, *Natrona* 30 Jun (C. Michelson), while one at Prewitt 14 Jul (SGM, DD) was rare for the Plains away from the Arkansas River

SA In the late 2000s, Mississippi Kite sightings in *El Paso* started accumulating in a county with very few previous records, despite a healthy breeding population only some 45 km s. in *Pueblo*. Nearly all of these sightings came from the s. part of the county in the Fountain Creek drainage. As many birders expected, Mississippi Kites have now been found nesting in the area for three years, with at least two nests noted this summer at Security-Widefield and some unknown number of nests in *Fountain* (D. Beatty).

This pattern has been typical in Colorado for the expanding Mississippi Kite breeding population, as exemplified by our experience at Sterling, *Logan* and Greeley, *Weld*. As nesting by the species was first recorded in *Pueblo* in 1980, it took the species some 30 years to cross the nearly treeless gap between *Pueblo* and *Fountain*, though Fountain Creek provides an excellent corridor for gallery forest inhabitants. From Security-Widefield, the species should find suitable habitat n. into Colorado Springs, so we would not be surprised if Mississippi Kite becomes a widespread breeder in that well-treed city. The next barrier to expansion northward along the Front Range from Colorado Springs is the Palmer Divide, which reaches some 2286 m. Once across that pine-covered feature, the species has the option of a two-fronted assault on the Denver-Boulder Metro complex, with the recent colonization of Greeley just down the South Platte River.



This Great Kiskadee south of Lamar, Prowers County 21 June 2013 was the first of an incredible four first Colorado and regional records found in a 37-day span during the two-month summer season. Unfortunately, like two of the three others, the kiskadee was a one-day wonder that was seen only by the finders. With single spring and fall records, neighboring Kansas hosts several of the very few records of vagrant kiskadees in the United States. *Photograph by Jane Stulp.*

drainage. Both yellowlegs were late, with multiple reports each from 1 Jun and of Greater on 2 Jun, while presumed southbound individuals were noted 18 Jun (Greater; *Weld*, SGM) and 22 Jun (2 Lessers; *Kiowa*, J. & M. Goff). However, what direction the single Greaters were headed on 9 Jun at Lake John, *Jackson* (CH) and 13 Jun in Yellowstone, *Park* (JL) is up for speculation. Also available for debate is the directional inclination of 2 Whimbrels at Lower Latham 12 Jun (SGM). The species is rare except as a spring migrant, when uncommon (about 22 Apr–1 Jun, with a sharp peak during late Apr and early May), so also of interest were presumed fall migrants (singles) in *Larimer* 26 Jun and at Jackson 20-28 Jul (both SGM). The 366 Long-billed Curlews at Adobe Creek Reservoir, *Bent* 13 Jul (DD) must have been an impressive site and made for a new Colorado maximum. Single Ruddy Turnstones, annual in single-digit numbers, were not far from each other 17 Jul at Prewitt (NL) and four days later at Jackson (DD). A breeding-plumaged Stilt Sandpiper was incredibly late 12 Jun at Loloff Reservoir, *Weld* (SGM). A tally of 143 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Jackson 24 Jul (SGM) may have set the record high count for ads. in Colorado. The seasonal maximum of any shorebird was the 2600 Baird's Sandpipers at Jackson 28 Jul (SGM), a typical occurrence in low-water years on the Plains. Presumed spring-migrant Pectoral Sandpipers were late at Pueblo Reservoir, *Pueblo* 5 Jun (one; BKP) and Trinidad Reservoir, *Las Animas* 7 Jun (2; RM). Four ad. Short-billed Dowitchers 20 Jul at Keyhole Reservoir, *Crook* (M. Higbee) furnished the only seasonal sighting of this very rare Wyoming migrant.

A light ad. **Pomarine Jaeger** at Antero Reservoir, *Park* 12-18 Jun (†E. DeFonso) was a great surprise, with only two previous accepted Regional summer records of any jaeger, both Pomarines in Colorado. Very rare was a summering Bonaparte's Gull at Cherry Creek 31 May–22 Jul (K. Rasmussen), while single Laughing Gulls were documented from Big Johnson 28 Jun–13 Jul (MP), and, most interestingly, Prewitt 14 Jul (SGM, DD). An ad. Herring Gull was a great surprise 7 Jul at Walden Reservoir, *Jackson* (SGM, NM); Colorado summer records are exceedingly few. While Lesser Black-backed Gull is no longer the astounding summer rarity that it once was, the species is not at all common then, so the second-cycle bird at Big Johnson 15 Jun–3 Jul (MP) was of interest. Single ad. Least Terns were away from breeding areas near St. Vrain S.P. 15 Jun (SGM) and Nucla, *Montrose* 18 Jun (CD, BW); the species is rare both on the West Slope and in ne. Colorado but nearly annual in both. A Common Tern mostly in breeding plumage near St. Vrain S.P. 4-5 Jul (SGM) accounts for the only Jul Colorado report in eBird.

DOVES THROUGH FALCONS

Northwestern Wyoming, perhaps the final Regional outpost resisting the invasion of Eurasian Collared-Doves, fell to the onslaught this summer (*fide* MF). Though becoming nearly ho-hum in Colorado, White-winged Dove is still fairly rare in the mountains, so the San Luis Valley's fourth eBird record, of one at the Medano-Zapata Ranch, *Alamosa* 20-29 Jun (LP), was of more-than-passing interest, as were a bird at Rifle, *Garfield* 2 Jul (A. Dahl) and 3 at DeWeese 26 Jul (R. Stewart). However, focus on this species' peripatetic Regional assault has shifted to Wyoming, which saw the species consolidate ground gained in *Albany* and *Laramie* while establishing a new outlying beachhead in Jun in *Hot Springs* (S. Chamberlain). The only Yellow-billed Cuckoos found in w. Colorado this season were singles at Hotchkiss 10-15 Jun (A. Robinsong) and Paonia 2-13 Jul (J. Beason), both in *Delta*, which is single-handedly supporting the remnant Western Yellow-billed population in the Region. A Greater Roadrunner at Barr 3 Jul (IS, K. Rabon) was far n. of normal and an incredible surprise, the report being just the second from fairly well-birded *Adams*. A small Flammulated Owl presence continues on the w. slope of the Sierra Madre Mountains in *Carbon*, the only known regular breeding location in Wyoming, with at least 3 being found on a single evening's survey there 30 Jun (FB). Western Screech-Owl remains enigmatic in Wyoming, so reports of 1-2 birds vocalizing 18-20 Jun near the Utah border in *Uinta* (MF, E. Miller) are significant. Three young Eastern Screech-Owls at Cheyenne 1-7 Jun (P. Arnold) provided the first breeding record in this sector of Wyoming; the species is resident not all that far s. in Fort Collins. A pair of Northern Saw-whet Owls vocalized 14 Jun in *Crook*, where breeding is as yet unknown (M. McCloy). The only documented Lesser Nighthawk was at Adobe Creek Reservoir, *Kiowa* 22 Jun (SGM, DD); there are about 25 documented records from Colorado, nearly all from May and Jun, with one antecedent record for *Kiowa*.

A Ladder-backed Woodpecker at Wetmore 9 Jun (BKP) provided a rare *Custer* record, though the site is just uphill of regular range in neighboring *Pueblo* and *Fremont*. The usual summer range of Red-headed Woodpecker extends w. to approximately *Morgan*, *Lincoln*, and *Otero*; per usual, a few were found farther w. this summer, including a few in the foothills: up to 3 ads. and an active nest in the Hayman Burn area (elev. approximately 2300 m), *Jefferson* 21 Jul+ (T. Halverstadt, R. Martinez) for the fourth or fifth consecutive summer, and a solitary bird at Turkey Creek, *El Paso* 3 Jun (JD). Two Acorn Woodpeckers continued at Pueblo Mountain Park, *Pueblo* through at least 29 Jun (m.ob.); this species is Regionally very rare away from its single *La Plata* stronghold. Few birders dedicate effort to distinguishing Interior Montane (*P. v. orius* group) from Eastern (*P. v. villosus* group) Hairy Woodpeckers, and so the biogeographical interface between these taxa remains fuzzy. This summer, an Eastern Hairy Woodpecker was again found near Milliken, *Weld* 26 Jun, while 15 km away, a juv. Interior Montane bird visited Greeley, *Weld* 13 Jul (both SGM); substantially farther e., an Interior Montane Hairy was at Flagler Reservoir, *Kit Carson* 22 Jun (SGM, DD). A Hairy Woodpecker that defied subspecific identification stopped at Frederick, *Weld* 11 Jun (SGM). A Peregrine Falcon near

SA The Regional surprise of the season and perhaps the year was an ad. **Sandwich Tern** found 27 Jun at Manitou Lake, *Teller* (ph. R. Linfield). Not only was this the first Regional and Colorado record, but the site is a small mountain lake at which the only terns even vaguely expected are Black and Forster's!

With recent decisions elsewhere in the world to split Sandwich Tern into Old World (Sandwich Tern) and at least one New World (Cabot's Tern) species, more attention has been placed on extralimital Sandwich Terns worldwide. Thus, determining to which taxon the Colorado bird is referable is of some interest, as there are now reports of nominate Sandwich Terns from Massachusetts and possibly Illinois and Québec.

SA As noted in Rich Levad's excellent book, *The Coolest Bird*, Black Swift remains an enigma in Wyoming. The state is a glaring hole in the breeding range of this species that has at least 108 known nesting sites in Colorado and a handful of known breeding locations in Utah, Idaho, and w. Montana. Despite several undocumented sight records, Wyoming has yet to have an accepted sighting.

On 16 Jun, James Maley and Jacob Saucier were doing routine bird surveys in southern *Uinta* very near the Utah border when Saucier encountered a flock of 8-10 Black Swifts foraging over a small beaver pond. The Uinta Range just on the other side of the Utah line does have a known Black Swift nesting area, on the Duchesne River. He did not have a camera, so James Maley contacted Matt Fraker, who had been involved in some Black Swift searches in the Teton Range the previous two summers. Fraker made it to the area 17 Jun and saw a single Black Swift but was also unable to document the bird photographically. The two records are pending with the Wyoming B.R.C.

During late Jul–early Aug, Jason Beason and his team of Colorado Black Swift gurus, with the financial support of the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, put together a small team of people to engage in a survey of the most likely areas that might harbor breeding Black Swifts in Wyoming. Eric Horvath and his daughter Phoebe performed the vast majority of surveys, covering the Wyoming Range, *Lincoln* and *Sublette*; the west side of the Big Horn Range, *Big Horn*; several areas in sw. Yellowstone N.P., *Teton*; and several locations in the Teton Range, *Teton*. Fraker surveyed several areas in the Wind River Range, *Fremont* and in the Teton Range, *Teton*, while Michael Wickens did some surveying on the e. side of the Big Horn Range, *Sheridan* and *Johnson*.

All in all, approximately 70 waterfall locations in the state were assessed, 40 of those by an "evening watch" protocol used by the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory for their general Black Swift surveys: no Black Swifts were located. Is Wyoming truly just a black hole in the e. side of the Black Swift breeding range? It will be impossible to say conclusively that Black Swifts do not breed in Wyoming with all of the inaccessible nooks and crannies this state harbors. Keeping the shroud over such a mystery is just another example of what the state of Wyoming does best.

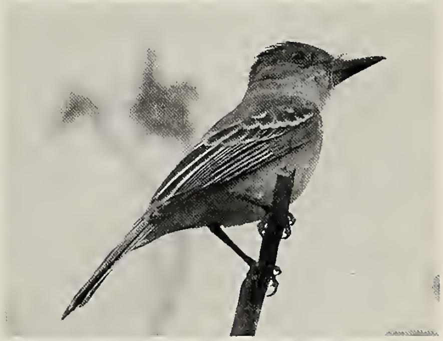
Merino, *Logan* 31 Jul (NM, SGM) yielded a very rare summer Plains record; the first usually arrive during the latter half of Aug.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

An Eastern Wood-Pewee graced Chico, *Pueblo* 1 Jun (BM, BKP); Colorado has about 30 records, a third of which are from 21 May–1 Jun. A Willow Flycatcher at Barr 17 Jun (CS) was difficult to categorize; a few migrant Willow Flycatchers typically linger into the first week of Jun and the first fall migrants are often found in late Jul, but the species remains unconfirmed as a Plains breeder. Rarely reported, but likely a regular migrant in small numbers, an Eastern Willow Flycatcher (*E. t. traillii* group) was identified at Florence, *Fremont* 1 Jun (SGM, DM, MP). Spring migrant Least Flycatchers are uncommon to fairly common migrants in e. Colorado, with the last northbound individuals typically found in early Jun and the first southbound birds at the end of Jul; the only well-established (occupied for 15+ years) breeding area is the Chatfield Basin s. to Sedalia, *Jefferson/Douglas*. This summer, up to 3 Least Flycatchers were on the West Slope near Collbran, *Mesa* 8-24 Jun (N. Korte), the third consecutive summer for this location; notably, this species is rare on the West Slope, even as a migrant. Other mid-summer Colorado Least Flycatchers away from the Chatfield vicinity included singles in *El Paso* near Calhan 15 Jun (C. Goulart) and at Sondermann Park 16 Jun (DeN et al.). In Wyoming, Least Flycatchers were again present in Jackson Hole, *Teton* this summer, where their breeding status is undetermined. One bird was on territory 6 Jun on the Moose-Wilson Rd. very close to where a bird was on territory last summer (MF); another was reported 16 Jun from Turpin Meadows (JC). The last northbound Dusky Flycatchers typically evacuate the Plains during early June, and the first southbound birds appear in early Aug; therefore, a persistently singing male at Crow Valley 26 Jun (SGM, DAL) was utterly unexpected.

Great Crested Flycatcher is a local breeder in ne. Colorado along the South Platte River drainage w. to *Morgan* and along the Republican River drainage near the Kansas border; thus, one in Longmont, *Weld* 29-30 Jun (SGM, S. Bawn) and another at Flagler Reservoir 8 Jun (M. Dreibelbis) were rather unexpected. Colorado's second **Brown-crested Flycatcher** graced the Medano-Zapata Ranch Preserve, *Alamosa* 29 Jun (ph. LP), some 400+ km ne. of the species' breeding range; the first record was of an utterly different sort, having been found in ne. Colorado at Crow Valley 29 Oct 2007. Even more gloriously astonishing was Colorado's first **Great Kiskadee**, a bird that made a brief appearance in a farm yard s. of Lamar, *Prowers* 21 Jun (ph. JS) nearly 800 km nw. of that species' breeding range. Kiskadees do not seem particularly prone to long-term vagrancy, although a few records exist for the cen. Great Plains: a fall bird in cen. Kansas and a mid-May record from nearby sw. Kansas. Cassin's Kingbirds are rare during summer in Colorado n. of the Palmer Divide; this year, singles were in *Boulder*, *Arapahoe*, and *Washington*, but more notable was a recently fledged family group plus an active nest at Crow Valley during late Jul (SGM), while the tally of 100 Western Kingbirds there 28 Jul (SGM, DD) was exceptional for summer. Considered occasional in *Teton*, 1-2 Eastern Kingbirds were at South Park W.M.H.A. 9 Jun–16 Jul (MF, RL). Singleton Scissor-tailed Flycatchers enlivened Bobcat Ridge, *Larimer* 3 Jun (ph. F. Simonds) and Comanche National Grassland, *Baca* 16 Jul (D. Barnett); of the approximately 40 Colorado records, about one-quarter are from Jun/Jul.

Two Gray Vireos inhabited Chacuaco Creek, *Las Animas* 11 Jun (TF); this species is a scarce breeder in the foothills of southernmost e. Colorado. One of the spring season's Yellow-throated Vireos dawdled through 1 Jun at Fort Collins, *Larimer* (S. Summers), about 10 days late for this rare migrant. Plumbeous Vireos are scarce spring migrants on the Plains; one at Crook, *Logan* 1 Jun (L. Kilpatrick) was a week or two late and far east. Much rarer Regionally in spring than in fall, a **Cassin's Vireo** first heard and then taped in for confirmation on 2 Jun at Jackson Hole, *Teton* (JM) was late and provided Wyoming's second summer report. Eastern Warbling Vireos once again fetched up against



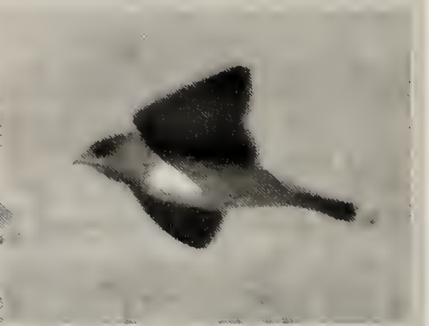
Colorado's first Brown-crested Flycatcher was found in late fall 2007 on the northern plains, so this Brown-crested Flycatcher was a suprise 29 June 2013 in Alamosa County, in the northeastern corner of the San Luis Valley. This individual bird provides yet another lesson in not assuming that any particular individual bird is referable to the expected species, Ash-throated Flycatcher, at this site, or indeed anywhere. *Photograph by Laurence Pitcher.*

the foothills in *Boulder* (TF) and *Larimer* (D. Czaplak), as well as farther s. in *Fremont* (SGM, DM, MP). Notably, both Eastern and Western Warbling Vireos appeared to be on territory at Barr 19 Jun (SGM); though the habitat there (cottonwood woodlands on the open plains) is more typical of Eastern Warbling Vireo, that taxon's occurrence at Barr is relatively new, with Western Warbling Vireo formerly being the sole breeding Warbling Vireo (Leukering, pers. obs.). In addition to 4 in spring, 2 late **Philadelphia Vireos** were documented in early Jun, singles at Haxtun, *Phillips* 2 Jun (DD) and Prior, *Huerfano* 8 Jun (M. Miller, DD); approximately 22 of 72 Colorado records are of northbound birds, but prior to this year, only 2 occurred in Jun. An unprecedented 35+ Red-eyed Vireos were detected in Colorado this summer, including a maximum of 6 at Golden Ponds, Longmont, *Boulder* 9 Jul (DD), plus a pair feeding a fledgling at Prewitt 14 Jul (SGM, DD), providing Colorado's second confirmed breeding record; the previous record was from 2012 during the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WRENS

Two male Purple Martins at Tarryall Reservoir 1 Jun (DD) provided *Park*'s first record; nearly all Colorado breeders are w. of South Park. Single Violet-green Swallows graced Cherry Creek 9 Jun (C. Madsen, K. von Saltza) and Barr 19 Jun (SGM); the species is quite rare e. of the mountains outside of spring migration, which peaks on the Plains from late Apr into mid-May.

S A Colorado's first fully documented **Cave Swallow** foraged among a swarm of Bank Swallows and Cliff Swallows at Prewitt 17 Jul (ph. SGM, AC, SW). During the 1970s, the breeding range of Cave Swallow began rapidly expanding northward in Texas and New Mexico, followed by a burst of extralimital records beginning in the 1980s; notably, these vagrants occurred largely during spring (peak Apr) along the Gulf of Mexico and late fall (peak Nov) along the Atlantic Coast (McNair and Post 2001). Regular vagrancy due n. into the Great Plains was not noted until about 2000, and this species is now essentially annual n. to Kansas, with most records coming from Jul and Aug (Thompson et al. 2011; eBird data). The northernmost record is from Lake McConaughy, Nebraska (Brown and Brown 1992), and breeding has likely occurred as far n. as Barton County, Kansas (Thompson et al. 2011). Extralimital records in these three regions (Atlantic Coast, Gulf Coast, Great Plains) probably involve different causes. There are four prior Cave Swallow reports from Colorado that are likely correct (Leukering 2011): Las Animas, May 2003, *Bent* Jul 2005, and *Pueblo* Sep 2006 and Sep 2009.



After a decade of undocumented or lightly documented reports of the species, many of which were probably valid, Colorado's first acceptable Cave Swallow, an adult, was noted among a swarm of Bank Swallows and Cliff Swallows 17 July 2013 at Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County. *Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.*

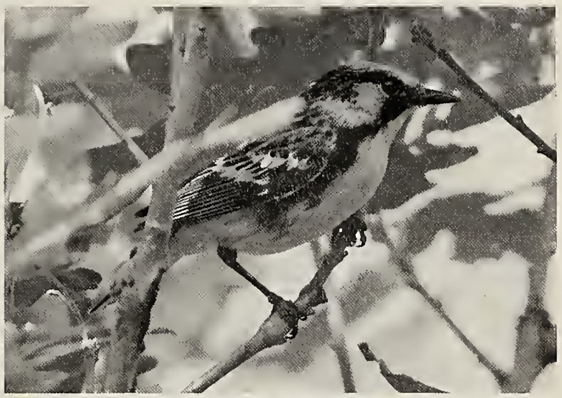
S A The status and distribution of Pacific and Winter Wrens (Leukering and Pieplow 2010) is poorly understood in Wyoming. Summering birds and more westerly distributed birds are expected to be Pacific Wrens, while migrants and more easterly distributed birds might be referable to Winter Wren (Faulkner 2010). Adding to the confusion is the suspected existence of an unnamed subspecies of this complex in nw. Wyoming (Hejl et al. 2002; Pyle 1997); such birds are currently considered to be referable to the rather Winter-Wren-like *salebrosus* subspecies of Pacific Wren. So, very interesting was a singing **Winter Wren** audiotaped 3 Jun on the Roaring Fork Trail, *Albany* (M. Wickens), providing just the seventh Wyoming summer record of a Pacific/Winter Wren and likely the state's first summer record of confirmed Winter Wren. Interestingly, several summer reports of Winter Wren originate from the Rocky Mountain N.P. vicinity not too far s. in Colorado.

Mountain Chickadees are exceptional during summer even a short distance from their mountain haunts. This year, a juv. was found at Grandview Cemetery, Fort Collins, *Larimer* 7 Jun (DAL), a location rife with conifers where Mountain Chickadees (and other typically montane species) have previously been suspected of or confirmed as nesting. Red-breasted Nuthatches are migrants on the plains, with spring migration peaking in mid-May and tailing off into the first week of Jun and fall migration beginning in mid-Aug; in between there is a substantial cluster of records from Denver and nearby suburbs (eBird data), perhaps representing breeding pairs taking advantage of planted conifers in these areas. Elsewhere on the Plains, however, this species is rare in summer after early Jun, though one wonders about occasional nesting in well-conifered towns. This summer, singles were at Lamar during late Jul (DAL) and Greeley, *Weld* 31 Jul (DD, SGM), two such coniferous places, though the late dates might suggest early migrants. As with Warbling Vireos, the ranges of White-breasted Nuthatch taxa in Colorado seem fluid. For the fifth consecutive summer, at least one Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch (*S. c. carolinensis*) was found during summer in the Teller Lakes/ White Rocks area of *Boulder*, suggesting local breeding (TF); this area is but a few kilometers from typical habitat of the montane subspecies, *S. c. nelsoni*. On the flip side, a montane bird had wandered well e. to Flagler 22 Jun (SGM, DD).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are relatively scarce on the Plains during summer, where the potential breeding habitat is more typical of that favored by the e. subspecies (*P. c. caerulea*), but there is only one record of *caerulea* breeding in Colorado (*N.A.B.* 66:706). This year, a pair of the w. subspecies, *P. c. obscura*, bred (or attempted to) at Crow Valley, 26 Jun+ (SGM, DAL), in a small patch of junipers rather than the nearby riparian cottonwoods and willows. The last northbound Swainson's Thrushes have typically departed the Plains by 7 Jun or so; this summer, a tardy Swainson's inhabited Crow Valley 15 Jun (IS), and a confused individual was singing at Flagler Reservoir 22 Jun (SGM, DD). Brown Thrashers are very rare in the mountains, so one at DeWeese (elevation ca. 2600 m) 1 Jun (DM, MP, SGM) was unexpected. An exceptional 31 Brown Thrashers were tallied at Tamarack 16 Jun (SGM, DD).

Ovenbirds have a very local breeding distribution in Wyoming (five counties in the northeast), so one found dead 4 Jun in *Fremont* (JMc) was either a late migrant or attempting to breed away from known or suspected breeding range. Black-and-white Warbler is detected in the Region about once every other summer; this summer's surfeit of records both came 1 Jun: in sw. Wyoming at Fontanelle (SP) and in Colorado's mountains, where scarce at any time, at DeWeese (MP, DM, SGM). A singing Virginia's Warbler 2 Jun in Ten Sleep (CJG) marked the fourth summer that this warbler, whose Wyoming breeding range is patchy, has been found in *Washakie*, which had no prior records. A male Hooded Warbler 19 May at Little America, *Sweetwater* continued through 3 Jun (MG) for Wyoming's eighth summer report. Summer Hooded Warblers are found nearly annually along the edge of the Front Range, and one at Loveland 26 Jun (SW) fit that pattern; however, a pair at Copper Mountain, *Summit* (elevation ca. 3300 m) 25 Jul (MM-L) was utterly unprecedented. A MacGillivray's Warbler inhabited Prewitt 14 Jul (SGM, DD); this species is casual on the Plains during summer after the first week of Jun. Three Northern Parulas during the first 10 days of Jun was about the norm, but one at Silverthorne, *Summit* 26 Jul (MM-L) was probably an early fall migrant and was in the mountains, where very rare. A Northern Parula 8 Jun at Fontanelle (MF) provided the eleventh Jun record for Wyoming and the fourth for *Sweetwater*. A **Blackburnian Warbler** at Dedisse Park, *Jefferson* 13 Jun (LC) yielded only the second Colorado summer record. Two Chestnut-sided Warblers was about average for summer in Colorado, with singles at Red Rocks Park, *Jefferson* 13 Jun (LC) and at Littleton, *Arapahoe* 22 Jun (PO). A handful of Yellow-breasted Chats was found in the mountains up to 2500 m or so, where scarce, but one at Echo Lake, *Clear Creek* 29 Jul (PO) was at 3500 m was truly exceptional.



This male Chestnut-sided Warbler at Red Rocks Park, Jefferson County 13 June was one of two summer 2013 occurrences in Colorado, which boasts just two historical breeding confirmations. ***Photograph by Linda Chittum.***

TOWHEES THROUGH FINCHES

Northbound Spotted Towhee migration has typically ceased by May's end, but tardy birds away from breeding areas included one at Crow Valley 15 Jun (IS) and another at Flagler Reservoir 22 Jun (DD, SGM). Though breeding just n. and e. of Colorado in Nebraska and Kansas (Sharpe et al. 2001), the Great Plains Spotted Towhee (*P. m. arcticus*) is known from Colorado only as a migrant/winter visitor (Bailey and Niedrach 1965); this summer, though, 2 singing male *arcticus* were found at Narrows Dam, *Morgan* 16 Jun (ph. SGM). The only Spotted Towhee x Eastern Towhee hybrid detected was at Tamarack 27 Jul (DD). A **Rufous-crowned Sparrow** graced Lyons, *Boulder* 15 Jun (SGM), likely the first n. of the Palmer Divide since Jan 1995 (ph. D. Ely) and one of about 10 recorded in n. Colorado. A single Cassin's Sparrow near Torrington, *Goshen* 17 Jun was at the traditional Wyoming toehold for the species, while a pair near Hawk Springs Reservoir, *Goshen* on the same day was s. of expected (both SB). Post-breeding Chipping Sparrow dispersal starts as early as mid-Jul (Floyd 2011), with numbers increasing rapidly thereafter; nonetheless, a tally of 85 near Firestone, *Weld* 31 Jul was exceptional (CS). A singing **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at Arapaho N.W.R., *Jackson* 7 Jul (SGM, NM). Colorado has only one other summer record after mid-Jun. An audiotaped Clay-colored Sparrow 22 Jun in *Sublette* (DT) was considerably farther w. in Wyoming than expected. The seventh and eighth Wyoming summer records of Black-throated Sparrow were noted in the Little Firehole Area, *Sweetwater*: 4 on 14 Jun and one on 2 Jul (JM, G. Seeholzer); the state awaits confirmation of breeding. Lark Buntings at Craig, *Moffat* 5 Jun (FL) and at Carbondale, *Garfield* 5 Jul (J. Biebl) were on the West Slope, where rare. A Lincoln's Sparrow at Barr 17 Jun (CS) was probably the latest ever for the Plains, while an **Oregon Junco** at Idaho Springs, *Clear Creek* 2 Jun (J. Bouton) provided one of but a handful of summer records of this taxon from Colorado.

Four Hepatic Tanagers were detected at three *Las Animas* sites again this year, further establishing that they are low-density breeders there (TF, DAL). Similarly, at least 5 **Summer Tanagers** were found this summer at Beatty Ranch (TF), and one was at Apishapa S.W.A. (DD), both *Las Animas*, indicating that this species also breeds in that county; the latter site was thoroughly surveyed in the late 1990s, with no Summer Tanagers noted (Leukering and Dombroski 2000). The species was unknown as a breeder in w. Colorado until last year. A Summer Tanager at well-birded Cañon City, *Fremont* 10 Jul (AC) was presumably an early fall migrant, but Colorado has about 10 antecedent Jul records away from known or suspected breeding sites. A male Western Tanager at Tamarack 16 Jun (SGM, DD) yielded one of the latest records of a northbound bird for the Plains. Unknown as a breeder along the South Platte as recently as 1992 (Andrews and Righter), 3 singing Northern Cardinals at Narrows Dam, *Morgan* 13 Jun (SGM) extended this species' breeding range westward along the South Platte, an ongoing process that may not cease until it reaches the Front Range. Single Northern Cardinals appeared well w. of known breeding range at Pueblo Reservoir 2 Jul (M. Floyd) and in *Pueblo* 19 Jul (D. Barnett); though records along the Front Range have become annual during winter months, cardinals are still casual there during summer. An excellent 20 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found in 10 e. Colorado counties, including three counter-singing males at Narrows Dam, *Morgan* 13 Jun (SGM). In Wyoming, 3 (2 males, one female) at Laramie, *Albany* 5-10 Jun (M. Gould) and one at Seedskadee N.W.R. 4-7 Jun (TK) were likely lingering spring migrants, while one in *Sheridan* 24 Jun (JC) may have been southbound. Rose-breasted Grosbeak x Black-headed Grosbeaks were detected at Apple Valley, *Boulder* 15 Jun (SGM) and Bear Canyon Trail, *Boulder* 21 Jul (TF). Scarce on the Plains during summer after early Jun, Lazuli Buntings were noted in *Weld*, *Morgan*, *Washington*, *Kit Carson*, and e. *El Paso* this summer. Notably, breeding Indigo Buntings in Colorado are most

SA Yellow-breasted Chats of the w. United States (*I. v. auricollis*) favor scrubby habitats such as those typical of the Colorado foothills. The nominate subspecies of the East also prefers scrubby habitat but in moister environs, typically on the edge of deciduous woodlands. Yellow-breasted Chats are relatively local on the Plains, where they inhabit environs more like those favored by *virens*, though the taxon involved there has historically been considered *auricollis* (Bailey and Neidrach 1965). However, 150 years ago, drainages such as that of the Platte River were treeless, and with the advancing of cottonwood forests along these rivers, many eastern taxa have moved westward (e. g., Blue Jay, Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch). This summer, a female *virens* Yellow-breasted Chat was paired with a male, probably of the same taxon, at Tamarack Ranch 16 Jun (SGM, DD), which is an exemplar of more easterly woodland. This was not the first record of the nominate for Colorado, however, as there are several specimens from e. Colorado, including a bird near Wray, *Yuma* from 20 Jun 1915 (Bailey and Neidrach 1965). The subspecific identification of chats breeding in far e. Colorado warrants more attention.

numerous along the edge of the Front Range and adjacent Plains, not farther east; this summer, seven reports came from five Plains counties, with a maximum of 3 at Prewitt 31 Jul, along with 2 Lazuli and one Indigo Bunting x Lazuli Bunting hybrid (SGM, NL). Eight Lazuli Bunting x Indigo Bunting hybrids were reported from the Front Range and Plains. A well-documented ad. male Indigo Bunting graced Grand Teton 18 Jun (K. Michael). In an unremarkable Dickcissel summer, singles were noted in Wyoming in *Natrona* (15-21 Jun; S. Scott), *Laramie* (17 Jun; SB), and way w. in *Fremont* (17 Jul; RL).

An **Eastern Meadowlark** (probably *S. m. magna*) sang heartily at Beech Open Space, *Boulder* 10 Jun–9 Jul (CN, m.ob.); a small breeding population in ne. Colorado was extirpated by the 1980s, and this individual represented only the third well-documented summer record for the state since 1990. Western Meadowlarks were scarce again this year in Colorado, with a 30-40% drop in abundance this summer compared with the antecedent three years (eBird data). The increasing summer presence of Great-tailed Grackles in Wyoming was represented by up to 13 in *Albany* (m.ob.), a single in *Goshen* (MF), and three reports of up to 7 in *Laramie* (MG, C. Seniawski). A wayward Orchard Oriole was far w. in Wyoming 3 Jul in *Fremont* (DeN), while 2 Scott's Orioles at Dripping Spring Ranch, *Las Animas* 10 Jun (TF) were in se. Colorado, where very local. Eighty Red Crossbills on Greenhorn Mountain, *Custer* 1 Jun (SGM, MP, DM) yielded an excellent count for summer in Colorado, while White-winged Crossbills showed better than any time in at least five years, with reports from seven counties and a maximum of 21 along Arapahoe Glacier Trail, *Boulder* 27 Jun (DD). Pine Siskin frequency dropped about 30% this summer in Colorado, though a tally of 105 at Greenhorn Mountain, *Custer* 1 Jun (SGM, MP, DM) was excellent for summer, and one at Flagler Reservoir 22 Jun (DD, SGM) yielded a very rare mid-summer record for the Plains. Out-of-place Wyoming Lesser Goldfinches included 5 in *Fremont* 6 Jul (B. Hargis) and 2 in *Washakie* 27 Jul (CJG) that may have been a county first. The frequency of Evening Grosbeak sightings in Colorado during summer 2013 was down nearly 50% compared with the prior three summers (eBird data).

Undocumented rarities: The following individuals of review species were reported in the period from Colorado without submission to the Colorado Bird Records Committee but are considered by us to be correctly identified: Philadelphia Vireo (*Logan*); **Sedge Wren** (*Gunnison*); Golden-winged Warbler (*El Paso*).

Corrigenda: The Great Black-backed Gull reported from *Albany* in the spring 2013 report was the third state record for Wyoming rather than the second. The Lesser Black-backed Gull from *Albany* noted in that report was the third spring report for Wyoming rather than the first (MF).

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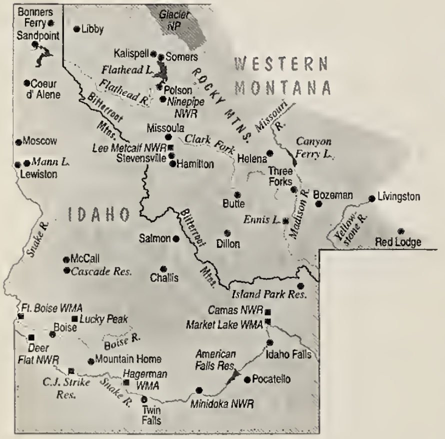
Idaho & Western Montana


Bonners Ferry
Sandpoint
Libby
Glacier NP
Kalispell
Somers
Flathead L.
Flathead R.
Polson
Ninepipe NWR
WESTERN MONTANA
ROCKY MTNS.
Coeur d' Alene
Bitterroot Mtns.
Missoula
Missouri R.
Clark Fork
Canyon Ferry L.
Moscow
Mann L.
Lewiston
Lee Metcalf NWR
Stevensville
Hamilton
Helena
Three Forks
Bozeman
Livingston
IDAHO
Butte
Ennis L.
Madison R.
Yellowstone R.
Red Lodge
Snake R.
Salmon
Bitterroot Mtns.
Dillon
McCall
Cascade Res.
Challis
Island Park Res.
Ft. Boise WMA
Lucky Peak
Boise
Camas NWR
Market Lake WMA
Boise R.
Deer Flat NWR
Mountain Home
American Falls Res.
Idaho Falls
Hagerman WMA
Pocatello
C.J. Strike Res.
Snake R.
Twin Falls
Minidoka NWR

David Trochlell

High pressure dominated the Region in the summer of 2013, making most locations warmer and drier than usual. As a result, almost the entire Region ended the season in moderate to extreme drought, with the most serious conditions occurring in southern Idaho and southwestern Montana.

LOONS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

A breeding-plumaged Pacific Loon in *Kootenai* 4 Jun (KB, LH, SS) represented the Gem State's fourth summer record; all such records have come from n. Idaho. Always rare in w. Montana, a Great Egret in Warm Springs 22 Jun (GS) represented a third local record. The **Green Heron** near St. Anthony, *Fremont* 20 Jul (CW) was Idaho's fourth. A tardy Rough-legged Hawk photographed in *Bonneville* 3 Jun (ph. SB) brought in Idaho's first verified summer record. The only reported American Golden-Plover was at Creston, MT 25 Jul (CH). Also remarkably unseasonable was a Common Tern in *Jefferson*, ID 3 Jun (TB).

A Band-tailed Pigeon, not annual, stopped in *Gem*, ID 26 Jun–4 Jul (FZ), where there have been several other previous records. As last year, juv. Northern Hawk Owls made a celebrated find at Glacier N.P., MT 27-28 Jul (*fide* SG). For the second consecutive year, Burrowing Owls successfully fledged young s. of Three Forks, MT (JP). The discovery of an ad. Long-eared Owl with 2 owlets n. of Three Forks, MT 11 Jul (JP, RW) represented a first breeding record for Latilong 38. Black Swift nesting was confirmed at two new sites in n. Idaho in late Jul (JC); the Gem State now has a total of six confirmed nesting sites, plus one other location where nesting is suspected. With only three previously accepted summer records in Idaho, reports of Anna's Hummingbirds at Moscow 28 Jun (TG), in *Gem* 30 Jun–9 Jul (FZ), and at Idaho City 13 Jul (JC) were significant. Black-chinned Hummingbird x Calliope Hummingbird hybrids were documented at St. Ignatius, MT 5 Jun (*fide* JM), *Gem*, ID 9 Jul (FZ), and Idaho City, ID 13 Jul (JC). An Alder Flycatcher, not annual in the Region, was detected in Somers, MT 18 Jun (DC). If accepted, a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** in Eagle 5 Jul (LP) would provide Idaho's fifth record.

A Bushtit at Lucky Peak, *Ada*, ID 18-19 Jul (JC) was far n. of expected range. More evidence of the recent geographic range extension in Bewick's Wren populations was a surprising report of 10 recorded near Stone, ID 26 Jun (JC). A group of 3 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers n. of Three Forks, MT 5 Jul (PC, DS) indicated local nesting; previously, the species had only been recorded breeding in the Pryor Mountains of se. Montana. The only Northern Mockingbird of the season was far out of range near Eureka, MT 19-30 Jun (LY). Single **Ovenbirds** at Camas 2 Jun (CW) and near Bonner's Ferry 13 Jun (JC) were interesting, as there are only three accepted records in Idaho. The only Black-and-white Warbler was at Camas 4 Jun (TB). Reports of up to 11 Tennessee Warblers in Montana were well above the norm. Another territorial Tennessee in *Shoshone* 9 Jun (MH) was notable: there are no breeding records in Idaho.

An out-of-range Black-throated Sparrow was an exciting find near Boise 18 Jun (JT). A **Summer Tanager** photographed at Bozeman, MT 1 Jun (A&JK) provided Montana's seventh record. A reported female Northern Cardinal at Boise 1-2 Jun (Harry Krueger) was interesting; to date, other reports of this species have been judged to be escaped captives. As in summer 2010, a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak successfully nested with a female Black-headed Grosbeak at Bozeman. A rare Indigo Bunting lingered at Bozeman 25 Jun–31 Jul (PE), the Region's longest staying ever. The only Common Grackle reported away from nesting locations was in *Gem*, ID 24-25 Jun (FZ). A pair of Great-tailed Grackles seen at Ashton, ID 6 Jul (CW) represented the northernmost potentially breeding pair. Also representing the northernmost record was a **Lesser Goldfinch** at Troy, MT 8 Jun (ph. DJ); although increasingly reported in the Region, the species has been documented only a few times in w. Montana since 2011.

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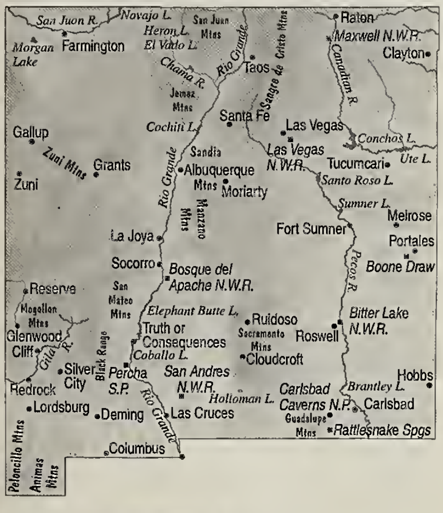
New Mexico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Novajo L.
San Juan Mtns
Heron L.
El Vado L.
Morgan Lake
Farmington
Rio Grande
Sangre de Cristo Mtns
Raton
Maxwell N.W.R.
Clayton
Chama R.
Taos
Canadian R.
Jemez Mtns
Santa Fe
Cochiti L.
Las Vegas
Conchos L.
Gallup
Las Vegas N.W.R.
Ute L.
Zuni Mtns
Grants
Sandia Mtns
Albuquerque
Tucumcari
Zuni
Moriarty
Santo Rosa L.
Manzano Mtns
Sumner L.
Melrose
Fort Sumner
La Joya
Portales
Socorro
Bosque del Apache N.W.R.
Pecos R.
Boone Draw
Reserve
San Mateo Mtns
Mogollon Mtns
Elephant Butte L.
Ruidoso
Bitter Lake N.W.R.
Glenwood
Truth or Consequences
Sacramento Mtns
Roswell
Cliff
Gila R.
Black Range
Caballo L.
Cloudcroft
Silver City
Percha S.P.
San Andres N.W.R.
Hobbs
Redrock
Holloman L.
Carlsbad Caverns N.P.
Brantley L.
Carlsbad
Lordsburg
Deming
Las Cruces
Guadalupe Mtns
Rattlesnake Spgs
Columbus
Peloncillo Mtns
Animas Mtns

Sartor O. Williams III

The extreme drought conditions of the past year continued into summer 2013, with dry forests, drier shrublands and grasslands, and drying streams and lakes; Elephant Butte Lake, the state's largest, was down to 3% of capacity. Breeding birds undoubtedly suffered, as evidenced by unusually low counts on most surveys and censuses. Scattered rains began by mid-July, including some surprisingly extreme events, such as up to 18 cm of rain and hurricane strength winds in the Albuquerque area 26 July. On the birding front, highlights included the first nesting by California Gull in the state, and the discovery and extensive documentation of a Rufous-necked Wood-Rail, a species heretofore unreported from the United States. Thanks to Bill Howe and John Parmeter for proofreading this report.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte Lake); N.R.T. (n. *Roosevelt* migrant trap w. of Melrose); P. O. Canyon (Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mountains); R.G.N.C. (Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs and vicinity, *Eddy*).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS

Summering geese included a Greater White-fronted with resident Canadas at Mims Lake near Truth or Consequences 17 Jun (LM) and single Snows at Lordsburg 14-17 Jun (JP, SW) and Acomita Lake 13 Jun (ph. DK) and 14 Jul (CR). On the exotic front, a pair of Egyptian Geese was tending 3 downy young at Clovis 30 Jun (JO). Unusual was a Scaled Quail x Northern Bobwhite hybrid s. of Gallegos, *Harding* 12 Jun (MB). Rare in the Guadalupe Mountains, a Montezuma Quail was near the n. boundary of Carlsbad Caverns N.P. 6 Jul (R. West). Lingering loons were a Pacific at Bosque 2 Jun (ph. L. Leckman) and a Common at Ute Lake 2 Jun (MB, ph. NP). The 64 Eared Grebe nests at Stone Lake 17 Jul (D. Stahlecker) were the only ones noted in the Jicarilla lakes area this season. Three Clark's Grebe pairs were tending chicks at Cochiti Lake 20 Jul (ph. WH). Up to 19 Neotropic Cormorants were at Albuquerque Jun–Jul (DH), but no breeding was discovered there; elsewhere beyond expected range, one was n. to Ohkay Owingeh 5 Jun (ph. JF), 2 were e. to Clovis 30 Jun (JO), and one was w. to Deming 27 Jul (CR, WE, ph. NH). An imm. Brown Pelican was at Mims Lake 17-28 Jun (LM, JP) and perhaps the same was at nearby E.B.L. 13-29 Jul (ph. DC); providing a *Torrance* first was one flying southward near Moriarty 22 Jul (K. Brusuelas). Up to 5 Least Bitterns entertained hundreds of birders who trecked to Bosque in Jul in search of the wood-rail (m.ob., ph.). Rare herons included an ad. Little Blue at E.B.L. 8 Jun (J. & M. Hirth) and up to 2 ads. at Bosque 8-18 Jul (DH, SW), plus an imm. Tricolored at Bosque 28 Jul (CR, WE, ph. NH) and up to 4 imms. at B.L.N.W.R. 29-31 Jul (ph. JS, FA). Black-crowned Night-Herons were present and possibly nesting at 2600 m at Black Lake, *Colfax* in Jun (DH). A subad. **Yel-**

An important food resource favored by the Rufous-necked Wood-Rail and other waterbirds at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in summer 2013 was a substantial population of crayfish concentrated in a progressively drying pool; here the wood-rail is consuming a freshly caught crayfish 10 July. *Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.*

SA Certainly the event of the season was the discovery of a Rufous-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides axillaris*) at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. 7-18 Jul. Originally found by Matt Daw, who obtained video of it as he was photographing a Least Bittern, the bird quickly attracted birders from throughout North America. The wood-rail entertained many hundreds during its stay, as it foraged about in dense cattails bordering a shallow pond, venturing out onto the mud flats and occasionally into the water to feed, often in company with Least Bitterns and Virginia Rails; crayfish seemed to be a favored food item. Relatively sensitive to disturbance early in its stay, toward the end it seemed to grow more tolerant of human activities taking place on a nearby boardwalk. The bird occasionally flew from one side of the pond to the other. Toward the end of its stay, it became increasingly vocal at dawn and dusk, including the evening and morning when last detected.

As this represents a potential first record for the United States, the New Mexico Bird Records Committee is tasked with evaluating it. The identity is unquestioned (thousands of photographs were obtained, as well as video and audio), but the issue of natural vagrancy versus human transport needs to be addressed. Two *Aramides* species, Giant Wood-Rail and Gray-necked Wood-Rail, are kept in captivity in zoos and, less commonly, in private avaries, including occasionally in the United States and Canada, but to date we have found only two instances of Rufous-necked Wood-Rail in captivity, one from s. Mexico (market) and one from South America (aviary), both reports several decades old. We have found no record of importation of Rufous-necked Wood-Rail into the United States, nor any interest in the species among zoos and aviculturists. Repeated inquires about, and searches for, an aviculturist in the area who might harbor such an unusual species have come up negative.

Historically considered largely or entirely restricted to coastal mangroves, there is now increasing documentation of Rufous-necked Wood-Rail occurrences well inland from any coast, and at elevations of up to 1800 m. In addition, there are now strong suggestions of both seasonal and altitudinal movements, as well as references to presumed accidental occurrences. The species is found from Mexico s. to Peru and the Guianas as well on a number of islands some distance (up to 130 km) offshore, yet it shows no geographic variation over that wide distribution, possibly suggesting gene flow among far-flung populations. The species occurs in nw. Mexico to within about 1200 km of the New Mexico refuge.

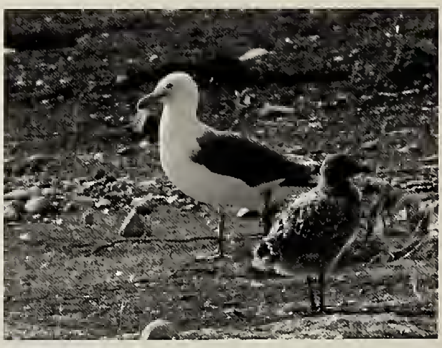
Bosque del Apache is perhaps the largest freshwater marsh complex in the southwest, and as such it is highly attractive to vagrant waterbirds and marshbirds, some of which may be detected by the large number of birders and biologists who visit the refuge throughout the year. It is no coincidence that the refuge has been found to host over the years a number of New Mexico "novelties," including single Purple Gallinules in 1972 and 1991, a Sungrebe in 2008, and a Gulf Coast Clapper Rail in 2009; the Rufous-necked Wood-Rail in 2013 seems to be a continuation of that phenomenon.

low-crowned Night-Heron was at B.L.N.W.R. 15 Jun (ph. NP); 2 ads. were at Las Vegas 27 Jul (ph. W. Jaremko-Wright, ph. R. Larrañaga), where the species has nested in recent years. A Mississippi Kite was w. to the Cliff-Gila Valley 10 Jun (RS); one was on a nest at Clayton 22 Jun (CR). A territorial pair of Northern Harriers was at B.L.N.W.R through mid-Jun (SOW, FA, JS) but nesting was not confirmed; a male was in suitable grassland habitat near Carrizozo 18 Jun (DK). Unusual for Albuquerque, a Zone-tailed Hawk flew eastward over Paradise Hills 1 Jun (WH); notable for e. *San Miguel* was one along Trigg Rd. 23 Jul (MM).

PLOVERS THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS

A Black-bellied Plover was late at E.B.L. 3 Jun (DC). Up to five pairs of Snowy Plovers nested successfully at E.B.L. 14 Jun–21 Jul (ph. DC), but only one chick was produced at Brantley Lake Jun–Jul, where Snowies were forced to compete with off-road vehicles, dogs, fire pits, and trash dumping (SW); peripheral was a single Snowy at the Deming treatment ponds 9 Jul (BO). Noteworthy w. to *Cibola*, five broods of American Avocets were at Acomita Lake 14 Jul (CR); migrant avocets began to pour into the E.B.L. area by early Jul, with 264 there by 5 Jul increasing to 574 by 29 Jul (DC). Southward shorebird migration can often begin surprisingly early: a Solitary Sandpiper was at Bosque by 6 Jul (NP), a Willet reached Brantley Lake 27 Jun (SW), a Marbled Godwit was at E.B.L. 22 Jun–1 Jul (ph. DC), and another Marbled was at Otto, *Santa Fe* 3 Jul (WE, RC). Late northbound migrants were a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Clayton Lake 1 Jun (MB, NP) and 5 White-rumped Sandpipers there the same day (MB, NP); one White-rumped was at Ute Lake 11-12 Jun (MB). A Red-necked Phalarope was a surprise at Acomita Lake 13 Jun (DK). A **Laughing Gull** molting into ad. plumage was at Morgan Lake 16-17 Jun (ph. CB) and 18 Jul (ph. CB); at E.B.L., a second-cycle Laughing was present 5-9 Jul (ph. DC, JP, LM), and an ad. Laughing was there 16 Jul (ph. DC). Establishing the first breeding record for any gull species in New Mexico, 26 ad. **California Gulls** and four broods of chicks were documented on an island in Heron Lake 28 Jun (ph. WH, M. Howe); although found summering there since the mid-1970s, low water levels this year likely exposed suitable nesting substrate that is normally below water. Only three pairs of Least Terns were nesting at B.L.N.W.R. 12 Jun (JS), and none nested at Brantley Lake; wandering Leasts were singles w. to Morgan Lake 14 Jun (CB) and n. to Ute Lake 12 Jun (ph. MB).

Band-tailed Pigeons were reported at feeders in large numbers, including 200 at Silver City in Jun (KB) and 60 n. of Kingston 1 Jun (DC). Two Inca Doves at La Union 21 Jul were the first seen there this year, where the species seems to have declined as Eurasian Collared-Doves have increased (*fide* DB); other Incas were singles at Animas 14 Jun (SOW) and Carlsbad 18 Jun (SW), and a nest with eggs was found at Elephant Butte 10 Jun (DC). The Common Ground-Dove pair near Radium Springs that produced 2 fledglings in May lost no time initiating a second nesting, incubating a new clutch by 3 Jun, but the effort failed for unknown reasons 17 Jun (MS, JZ); in *Hidalgo*, 3 Commons were in Guadalupe Canyon 20 Jul (JP) and one at Rodeo 28 Jul (RW). Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported as "struggling to survive" in the lower Pecos Valley, where imported leaf beetles are ravaging saltcedar habitat (SW); 2 were at R.S. 26 Jul, where the species was reported as "harder to find every year" (RN). Only one to 3 Lesser Nighthawks arrived for evening foraging over P.O. Canyon in Jun, down some 75% over the past decade (CL).



Providing the first nesting record for any gull species in New Mexico, this adult California Gull with two chicks was one of four broods documented at Heron Lake, Rio Arriba County 28 June 2013. *Photograph by William H. Howe.*

SWIFTS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Far from known breeding sites, 2 Black Swifts were over agricultural fields just s. of La Plata 19 Jun (ph. MB). Scarce in New Mexico, and with no certain nesting known, a female **Blue-throated Hummingbird** entertained many at the inn w. of Lake Roberts 20-23 Jul (R. Van-Buskirk, ph. MB, ph. NP, JP, WW). A male Lucifer Hummingbird on the flats n. of Rodeo in Jun (M. Moe) provided a local first; one in upper Cottonwood Canyon, Peloncillo Mountains 15 Jun (JP) was the only additional report away from P. O. Canyon. Earliest returning Rufous Hummingbird males were singles at P. O. Canyon 20-21 Jun (CL), Silver City 25 Jun (KB), and Cedar Crest 26 Jun (D. Ligon); earliest Calliopes, which typically arrive a few weeks after Rufous, were single males at P. O. Canyon 11 Jul (CL), at Bosque 13 Jul (EH), near Radium Springs 15 Jul (MS, JZ), and at La Union 15 Jul (ph. DB). An ad. male **Berylline Hummingbird** well described near Cloudcroft 3 Jun (T. Helentjaris) furnished the first Sacramento Mountains record and only the fourth for New Mexico. West of usual, single Red-headed Woodpeckers were at two upper Pecos River sites near Ribera 9 Jun (CR). Gila Woodpecker is casual n. to the San Francisco River valley, where one was seen near Alma 18 Jun (RS). Late for the prairie, a Red-naped Sapsucker was at N.R.T. 1 Jun (JP). Four Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were nw. to Abiquiu Lake 19 Jun (C. Sandell). Ad. Peregrine Falcons appearing in non-breeding areas by Jun were likely failed breeders; these included singles at Albuquerque 5 Jun (CR), Animas 14 Jun (SOW), Santa Fe 29 Jun (ph. BF), and Bosque 29 Jun (JP). The continuing Monk Parakeet near the Alameda bridge was still present 22 Jun (V. Dargan), but its roost structure was destroyed in the 26 Jul storm, and the bird was not seen after that (*fide* CH). Continuing from May, the Greater Pewee in upper Water Canyon, Magdalena Mountains, was still singing at least through 13 Jun (AG, ph. J. Holloway), and the one at Red John Corral, San Mateo Mountains was still singing 1 Jun (S. Mendoza), the last date of reports from that site. Up to three pairs of Willow Flycatchers were at R.S. Jun–Jul (SW), the only known *Eddy* breeding locale; another was singing at Bosque's boardwalk area 29 Jun (JP). A Hammond's Flycatcher was late at Clayton Lake 2 Jun (ph. MB, ph. NP); another was on the prairie at Vaughn 1 Jun (SW). Noteworthy was a Dusky Flycatcher singing from suitable habitat on Holman Hill, *Mora* 23 Jun (CR, WE). Summering Eastern Phoebes in the R.G.V. included an active nest at the old San Juan Pueblo bridge 30 Jun (ph. BF), which provided a first breeding record for *Rio Arriba*, plus singles at Santa Fe's Las Campanas 3 Jun (WE) and Albuquerque's R.G.N.C. in mid-Jun (WR). Noteworthy for the e. slope of the Black Range, a vocal Dusky-capped Flycatcher provided a Chloride Canyon first 12 Jun (DC). Unexpected in mid-Jun, a **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at Hobbs 15 Jun (C. Levine); another was early at R.S. 22 Jul (SW). At least one Thick-billed Kingbird pair was in Guadalupe Canyon 20 Jul (JP). An Eastern Kingbird was s. in the R.G.V. to Cochiti Lake 20 Jul (WH). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were w. to B.L.N.W.R. 4 Jun (SOW); an active nest was n. of Logan in *Harding* 12 Jun (ph. MB).

VIREOS THROUGH OLIVE WARBLER

Recently annual in New Mexico, a **White-eyed Vireo** was at R.S. 26 Jul (ph. RN). A Bell's Vireo pair at La Union fledged young 5 Jul and was incubating a second clutch by 10 Jul (DB); noteworthy was one at Hillsboro 6 & 27 Jul (DC). Gray Vireos where seldom encountered were one singing in the Ortiz Mountains s. of Santa Fe 9 Jun (BF) and one at 1863 m in upper Dark Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains 11 Jul (SW). A Red-eyed Vireo was at Trigg Ranch, e. *San Miguel* 23 Jul (MM). A remarkable concentration of 850 Chihuahuan Ravens was roosting on lines w. of Tatum 13 Jul (DH). A Purple Martin near Chamisal, *Taos* 8 Jun (JP) furnished a local first. Only four Bank Swallow burrows were active at a previously major Rio Rancho colony site 7 Jul (CH). Cave Swallows continued to thrive in *Doña Ana*, including four active nests on a canal w. of Mesilla Dam 5 Jul (BO). Unusual for lowland Albuquerque was a Red-breasted Nuthatch in the University area 10 Jun and 1 Jul (CR). Up to 2 **Carolina Wrens** were heard regularly at Bosque Jun–Jul (m.ob.), where present since 2011. Cactus Wrens continued to thrive in the northeast, including 7 along Trigg Rd., e. *San Miguel* 24 Jul (MM) and, in *Harding*, one s. of Bueyeros 5 Jun (CH) and 9 n. of Logan 12 Jun (MB). Overlooked as a breeder in the Magdalena and San Mateo mountains, a Townsend's Solitaire was singing in upper Water Canyon 29 Jun (JP) and spotted fledglings were being fed by ads. in Bear Trap Canyon 21 Jul (CR). For the first time in years, no Swainson's Thrushes were detected on the Ojo Sarco B.B.S. in *Taos* 8 Jun (JP); late or wandering were 2 at N.R.T. 8 Jun (CR) and singles in two Peloncillo Mountains canyons 27 & 29 Jun (CL). Noteworthy along the Pecos River were single Gray Catbirds singing at El Pueblo and Villanueva 9 Jun (CR). Only 7 Northern Mockingbirds were detected on the Magdalena B.B.S. 4 Jun (HS), down from 80 there in 2012. An automatic camera captured a Brown Thrasher at a Mesilla Bosque S.P. water fountain 20 Jun (V. Crane), where the temperature stamped on the photo read 108° F; other Browns were singles w. to El Malpais 14 Jun (CR) and R.G.N.C. 25 Jul (V. Dern). A Bendire's Thrasher was singing in *Lincoln* s. of Corona 7 Jun (HS); noteworthy for *Los Alamos* was a Curve-billed at White Rock 22 Jun (JP). Two Cedar Waxwings were near La Plata 19 Jun (MB), and one was at the Ohkay Owingeh lakes 30 Jun (BF); the species has nested in both areas in recent years. An ad. male Olive Warbler was e. to Cloudcroft 11 Jul (WE).

Eastern Phoebe has recently expanded its breeding range westward to New Mexico's Rio Grande Valley; this adult was nesting on the old bridge at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, Rio Arriba County on 30 June 2013. *Photograph by Bernard R. Foy.*

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Lingering Ovenbirds were singles in Otero Canyon, Manzanita Mountains 1 Jun (AG) and near Radium Springs 6 Jun (MS). A Black-and-white Warbler was singing along the upper Pecos River near Ribera 9 Jun (CR). A pair of Lucy's Warblers n. to Albuquerque's South Valley was first detected 7 Apr and seen and heard several times 2-9 Jun (ph. JJ); the species has been reported with increasing frequency n. in both the R.G.V. and the Pecos Valley recently. An early fall Virginia's Warbler reached Radium Springs by 14 Jul (MS, JZ); a MacGillivray's appeared at Albuquerque's Montessa Park 3-8 Jul (NP). A singing Hooded Warbler was at Galisteo 9 Jun (ph. JB). Late American Redstarts included a singing male at Galisteo 1 Jun (ph. BF), a singing male at R.S. 28 Jun (ph. RN), and a female at N.R.T. 15 Jun (NP). Other eastern vagrants included a singing Northern Parula at N.R.T. 1-2 Jun (JP, JO) and a singing Chestnut-sided Warbler around beaver ponds in the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve 1 Jun (BF). Late and easterly was a male Townsend's Warbler at Vaughn 1 Jun (SW).

Cassin's Sparrow was conspicuous by its absence or near-absence throughout the heart of its core breeding range in e. New Mexico. An early refugee from drought-stricken prairies, a male Lark Bunting was at B.L.N.W.R. 2 Jun (ph. JS). Up to 4 Song Sparrows were reported singing in the Cliff-Gila Valley 24 Jun–3 Jul (RS); the species has only recently colonized New Mexico's Gila River Valley. A Yellow-eyed Junco was reported from Jack's Peak, Burro Mountains 15 Jun (*fide* RS), but the overall status of the once-thriving population there is unknown. Last of the spring migrant Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, a male was singing at Oasis S.P. 8 Jun (CR, WE). A pair of Lazuli Buntings was along Sapillo Creek w. of Lake Roberts 27 Jul (CR, WE), where the species likely now breeds. Noteworthy in the n. Peloncillo Mountains, a male Varied Bunting came to water in P. O. Canyon 5-10 Jun (CL). Continuing from May, at least 3 male **Bobolinks** persisted at Albuquerque's Valle de Oro N.W.R. through 20 Jun (M. Hilchey). A young male Orchard Oriole was near Otto 30 Jun (ph. RC); an ad. male was w. to Las Cruces 23 Jun (NS). Irregular in summer in the Sandia Mountains, a male Cassin's Finch was singing along the Tree Spring Trail 1 Jun (JP). Only small numbers of Red Crossbills were reported, these from the Sangre de Cristo, Magdalena, Black, and Piños Altos ranges. South of usual summer range, a male American Goldfinch was seen and heard at Bosque 13 Jul (EH, D. vander Pluym).

Initialed observers: Francisco Anaya, Jonathan Batkin, Matthew Baumann, Karen Beckenbach, Dan Belcher, Charles Black, Roger Clark, David Cleary, Wyatt Egelhoff, Bernard Foy, Jerry Friedman, Ashli Gorbet, David Hawksworth, Chuck Hayes, Nancy Hetrick, Eric Hough, William Howe, James Joseph, David Krueper, Carroll Littlefield, Martin MacRoberts, Larry Malone, Robert Nieman, Jerry Oldenettel, Bruce Ostyn, John Parmeter, Nicholas Pederson, William Rowe, Christopher Rustay, Jeffrey Sanchez, Hart Schwarz, Marcy Scott, Roland Shook, Nancy Stotz, Richard Webster, Steve West, S. O. Williams, William Wittman, James Zabriskie.

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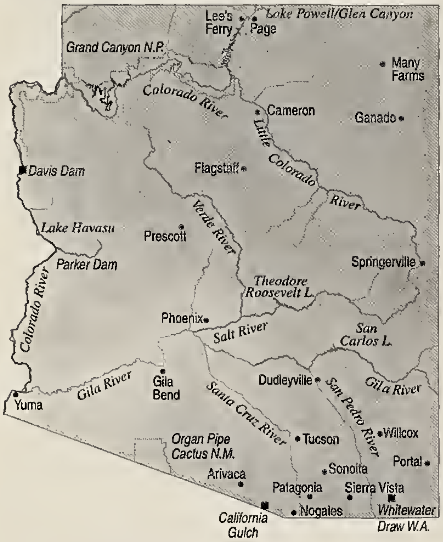
Arizona



Mark M. Stevenson
Gary H. Rosenberg

Dry heat is a way of life in summer in Arizona, but this season's baking produced the warmest June on record in Phoenix and Tucson and among the top five warmest in Flagstaff and Prescott. July provided some relief, with above-average rainfall amounts in much of northern Arizona, while portions of the northwest and south received amounts well below average. Recent nesting range advances by species thought of as "Mexican" were maintained (e.g., Tropical Kingbird, Black-capped Gnatcatcher, Rufous-capped Warbler), while several species with similar origins that are considered rarities appeared more frequently than in the past (e.g. Laughing Gull, Plain-capped Starthroat, Slate-throated Redstart). The ever-expanding, loosely knit electronic bird reporting systems continued to add a slew of rarities and oddities to the summer's records.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee), B.T.A. (Boyce Thompson Arboretum S.P.), L.C.R.V. (lower Colorado River valley).

WATERFOWL THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was n. to Willow Lake 14 Jun–10 Jul (DM; ph. B. Patrick); they are seldom found farther n. than greater Phoenix. Both Flagstaff and Prescott hosted larger-than-usual summer flocks of Canada Geese, with 85 at Walnut Canyon Lakes 14 Jun (D. Normandin) and 48 at Watson Lake 14 Jun (DM). Within the span of a week, single Northern Pintails were found at four widely separated locations across s. Arizona: Havasu N.W.R. 20 Jun (LHa, DVP), Tucson 19 Jun (AC), Glendale recharge ponds 23 Jun (MH), and Lake Cochise, Willcox 24 Jun (D. Thordarson, K. Keim). Apparently early migrants, all were considered casual, and none was reported again. A Canvasback was accidental at Havasu N.W.R. 20 Jul (DD). A male Bufflehead lingered at Watson Lake through 14 Jul (DM), and a Hooded Merganser summered at Safford (JCo). Ruddy Ducks nested for the first time at Sedona Wetlands Preserve 8 Jun (R. Armstrong). A basic-plumaged Common Loon was a summer surprise at Hawley Lake 9 Jun (TC et al.), while on Lake Havasu, the high count this summer was 8 seen together 28 Jun (DVP). A lone Least Grebe that remained at Peña Blanca Lake all summer (m.ob.) was the only one reported. Neotropic Cormorants maintained their recent advances; most noteworthy for being at their fringe were 4 at Walnut Canyon Lakes 2 Jun+ (JWl, m.ob.), 4 at Roper Lake 4 Jun (JCo), 3 near Wellton 8 Jun (HD), and 6 at Willow Lake 14 Jun–14 Jul (DM, m.ob.). Rare along the Mogollon Rim, 2 Least Bitterns heard in the extensive marsh at Chevelon Creek W.A. 8 Jul (E. Hough) were possibly a first for *Navajo*. The Little Blue Heron found at Lake Havasu City in spring stayed through 13 Jun (m.ob.). Roseate Spoonbill is a casual summer and fall visitor from points south; singles were at a rainwater puddle in Superior 15 Jul (ph. R. Castillo) and at Benson S.T.P. 30 Jul (†RBe; ph., †S. Grysman).

An active Osprey nest at Point of Pines Lake 28 Jun (JCo) was in an area below the Rim where they were not found during the Breeding Bird Atlas. Another Osprey was out of place in the summer heat at Mittry Lake 30 Jun (HD). The White-tailed Kite found n. to Willow Lake in spring remained there all season (m.ob.). At nearby Chino Valley, a pair of Mississippi Kites was present again this summer, reported 18-21 Jun (R. Armstrong), with later rumors of nesting. A pair of Harris's Hawks nested successfully in suburban Sierra Vista (EW, m.ob.), a new location for this species. A Ferruginous Hawk was surprising below the Rim in summer, w. of Point of Pines 28 Jun (JCo). A Clapper Rail at Lincoln Ranch, Bill Williams River N. W.R. 6 Jun (LHa) was farther upriver than previously reported.

There was a good variety of unseasonable shorebirds, including some that are rare migrants at any season. A Black-bellied Plover in the lower Gila River valley 8 Jun (HD) was between expected dates of migration for this species in the L.C.R.V. The only report of Snowy Plover came from Gilbert Water Ranch 30 Jun–1 Jul (ph. B. Howe). Very surprising was an Upland Sandpiper in the Santa Cruz Flats 5-8 Jul (ph. DJ); although they have been found at this location before, the date is exceptionally early for Arizona. A Baird's Sandpiper at Lake Cochise 4 Jun (ph. LH) was a first for Jun in se. Arizona. A Stilt Sandpiper s. of Yuma 22 Jul (ph. HD) was exceptional in the L.C.R.V. Late in the L.C.R.V., a Red-necked Phalarope was at Dome Valley 8 Jun (HD). Occurring somewhat more regularly in recent years but still casual, single Laughing Gulls were at Lake Cochise 3-4

Jun (DT, L. Epstein; ph. RT, AC, C. van Cleve) and Martinez Lake 8 Jul (ph. B. Willcox). Now considered regular there in small numbers in summer, up to 6 California Gulls were at Lake Havasu City all summer (DVP, m.ob.). Least Terns put in a good showing in se. Arizona, including some in imm. plumage, seldom seen in the state. An imm. was at Roper Lake 3-4 Jun (ph. JCo), an ad. and 2 imms. were at Lake Cochise 3 Jun (ph. RT); single ads. were at Patagonia Lake 15 Jun (O. Harbour) and Lake Cochise 16-21 Jun (J. & M. Hirth). A Common Tern was unseasonable in the lower Gila River valley 8 Jun (HD).

A juv. Band-tailed Pigeon was an unexpected visitor to the lowlands at Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson 18 Jun (ph. C. Thayer). Even though they nest in Arizona, Long-eared Owls are seldom reported in summer; 2 were s. of Hulsey Lake 14 Jun (M. Baumann, C. Wolf), and 3 were sw. of Nutirioso 28 Jun (M. Robbins). Similarly, single Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported from Workman Creek, Sierra Ancha Mountains 15 Jun (J. Arnett) and Rustler Park, Chiricahua Mountains 5 Jul (B. Barkley). Buff-collared Nightjars continued in the Santa Rita Mountains, with up to 4 present along Proctor Rd. below Madera Canyon all season (indicating nesting) (LH, m.ob.), up to 2 continuing in Faber Canyon through 27 Jun (LH), and one heard along McCleary Wash 1 Jun (†LH). Multiple Plain-capped Starthroats visited again this summer. On the e. flanks of the Huachuca Mountains, one summered again in lower Ash Canyon (K. LeMay, RBe), and one was seen briefly at a feeder in lower Ramsey Canyon 17 Jul (J. & M. Hirth). Elsewhere, singles were reported from California Gulch 2 Jun (†B. Barkely) and residential Green Valley 10 Jun–16 Jul (ph. anonymous via G. West), the latter one of very few lowland summer records of this species. Even in the wake of the Monument Fire, Lucifer Hummingbirds have continued to be reported most often from the e. flanks of the Huachuca Mountains in small numbers. Reports came from Ash Canyon B&B (M. J. Ballator) and lower Ash Canyon (RBe) all season and Miller Canyon 28 Jun (T. Beatty). Other reports came from Portal, the Mule Mountains, Paradise, and Madera Canyon. Allen's Hummingbird is known to be a regular fall migrant in small numbers; this season, 12 were reported during the period 29 Jun–26 Jul, all but 3 identified at banding stations. A few Berylline Hummingbirds were found this season, with one banded in the Chiricahua Mountains 1 Jun (L. Rogers, S. Wethington), a male in Portal 3-7 Jun (REW, RAR), and a male in Madera Canyon 21-31 Jul (E. Dunn; ph. LH). Similarly, up to 3 White-eared Hummingbirds were at Beatty's in Miller Canyon through 19 Jul (m.ob.), one was away from feeders in upper Madera Canyon 8 Jun (LH), it or another was at Madera Kubo Cabins 20-22 Jul (M. Kehl. C. Lansky), and one was at Stewart Campground, Cave Creek Canyon 25 Jul (B. Barkley, G. Montgomery). The annual June Elegant Trogon Survey was expanded this year to include the Atascosa (11 trogons) and Patagonia (15 trogons) mountains along with the usual Sky Island mountain ranges. A total of 86 trogons were detected (with 11 more "probable"). Numbers in the Chiricahua Mountains remain down following the 2011 Horseshoe 2 fire, but 9 were detected (all *fide* RT). Notable in summer below the Rim, 2 male Red-naped Sapsuckers were along Lower Canyon Creek near OW Ranch, *Gila* 15 Jun (M. Larson, B. Meding). Conversely, a Ladder-backed Woodpecker was unexpected at 2225 m elevation in Carr Canyon 18 Jun–12 Jul (M. Brown).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES

Empidonax flycatchers are generally finished migrating through s. Arizona by early Jun, with occasional Pacific-slope Flycatchers reported, and any species n the lowlands at this season would be unusual. Quite astounding, a photo of an *Empidonax* from a Phoenix yard 7 Jun (ph. R. Ditch) strongly suggested it to be a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**; if accepted by the A.B.C., it would represent only a fourth Arizona record. At least 3 Buff-breasted Flycatchers remained in the Rose Canyon area of the Santa Catalina Mountains, where they were found again during the spring season; this species has increased in recent years in the range. In the Chiricahua Mountains, Buff-breasteds were found in Pinery Canyon 30 May–13 Jul (m.ob.), suggesting that they may be spreading into areas that have burned recently: something to watch for in the future. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher was at San Bernardino N.W.R. 5 Jul (REW), which is at a low elevation and away from known breeding areas. After the exciting discovery of a breeding pair of **Nutting's Flycatchers** along the Bill Williams River this past Apr (LHa, DVP), individuals were detected at different sites along the river (far from the nest site) during Jun, suggesting likely dispersal of the fledged young (v.r. OJ). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in the Pinal Mountains 17 Jul (v.r. R. Hoyer, M. Brummermann) was n. of this species' normal breeding range in se. Arizona; Sulphur-bellieds have been known as spring and summer overshoots as far n. as the Mogollon Rim in cen. Arizona. Tropical Kingbirds remain stable as breeding birds at a number of s. Arizona locations, including a couple of locations on the L.C.R.V. (Parker, Havasu N.W.R.); surveys of the Santa Cruz Flats 17 Jun and 15 Jul found 15 and 20 Tropical Kingbirds, respectively (DJ), confirming last year's discovery that this species is a common but local breeder in this area. A Thick-billed Kingbird at Sweetwater 7 Jul (T. Lamb) was well away from known breeding areas in se. Arizona. A very nice find for Tucson in the summer, an Eastern Kingbird was also at Sweetwater 16 Jul (MMS).

This White-eyed Vireo at Mittry Lake 2 June 2013 provided a first Yuma County record; there are now more than 30 records of this species from Arizona, many of which have been made during the past 10 years. *Photograph by Henry Detwiler.*

A White-eyed Vireo was at Mittry Lake 2 Jun (ph. HD), perhaps providing a first record of this casual species for *Yuma*. Another singing male White-eyed Vireo was in a Flagstaff yard 4-5 Jul (JC). Another casual species in Arizona is Yellow-throated Vireo, with one reported at Bear Canyon in the Santa Catalina Mountains. 8 Jun (CC et al.). Hutton's Vireos were found at a few locations away from normal breeding areas in the state; single individuals were found along the South Rim of the Grand Canyon 5 Jun–2 Jul (BG) and 10 Jul (R. Sleeper), an agitated pair was along the lower Bill Williams River 6 Jun (OJ), and one was at Munds Park 16 Jun (MW). Late Warbling Vireos were along the lower Bill Williams River 6 Jun (LHa) and at Pintail Slough, Havasu N.W.R. 8 Jun (DVP). A Red-eyed Vireo, casual in the state, was at Portal 22 Jun (†REW).

Two Steller's Jays were discovered in the Virgin Mountains in the extreme nw. corner of the state 28 Jun (S. Langston), establishing what appears to be the first report of this species from that mountain range. Astounding was the report of a high concentration of 1125 Purple Martins along the San Pedro River near San Manuel coming to the river just before sunset 27 Jun (J. Wilson, J. MacFarland); large concentrations of this species have been reported late in the summer (Aug), and this subspecies is a "late" arriver in s. Arizona, but late June seems like an odd season for this kind of congregation. A Tree Swallow at Sierra Vista 30 Jun (EW et al.) was likely a very late migrant, as they do not breed in s. Arizona. A Violet-green Swallow in the Santa Cruz Flats nw. of Tucson 17 Jun (DJ) was well away from breeding locations in the mountains of s. Arizona. Very odd were reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches at Bill Williams River N.W.R. 9 Jun (OJ) and at the B.T.A. 26 Jul (D. Herron); this species is an irruptive visitor to lowlands in Arizona during the fall and winter, but mid-summer lowland reports are essentially unprecedented. White-breasted Nuthatches appeared to be on the move during late Jul, with odd reports from Sonoita 17 Jul (T. Leonardini), Tanque Verde Wash, Tucson 20 Jul (MMS, MP), and at Agua Caliente Wash, Tucson 28 Jul (BN). Eight Pygmy Nuthatches in the Virgin Mountains, in the extreme nw. corner of the state 12-28 Jun (S. Langston) were of interest, as this species has only recently been discovered to be present in these mountains.

Unexpected was a Cactus Wren along the lower Bill Williams River 6 Jul (LHa, DVP); this species has drastically declined in the L.C.R.V. Black-capped Gnatcatchers were reported from California Gulch, Montosa Canyon, and Florida Canyon, all areas of known and continuing occurrence. A Townsend's Solitaire was reported from "up high" in the Chiricahua Mountains 25 Jul (B. Barkley, G. Montgomery); this species is occasionally reported during summer from this mountain range, yet it has not been confirmed as a breeding species there. A late Swainson's Thrush was at the Desert Botanical Gardens, Phoenix 10 Jun (ph. J. Anderson, A. Givey). An American Robin was at Tempe 21 Jun (J. Nickels), at the same location where robins nested in 2012. At least 2 American Robins from a nesting group found during the spring season were still present at Lake Havasu City 28 Jun (DVP); this species breeds casually at lowland sites in s. Arizona.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The only Ovenbird of the season was one in Miller Canyon 10 Jun (K. Huffstater); this species is generally annual during May and Jun somewhere in the se. Arizona canyons. Another warbler that appears to be a rare but regular spring visitor in s. Arizona, a female Prothonotary Warbler was at Portal 3 Jun (REW, RAR). A Tennessee Warbler was in a Portal yard 12 Jun (ph. M. Decker); this species is still a casual visitor to the state, particularly during the summer season. A singing male Orange-crowned Warbler was at a very odd location in Sycamore Canyon, *Santa Cruz* 22 Jul (KK), well away from the nearest breeding area high in the Santa Catalina Mountains near Tucson. It would be interesting to know if this individual was of the local breeding subspecies or a vagrant from elsewhere. A Virginia's Warbler was also at an unusually low elevation near Buckeye 29 Jul (ph. C. Strand, *fide* TC). Two MacGillivray's Warblers along Bonita Creek, *Graham* 1 Jun (JCo) were likely late migrants; one ad. male in Madera Canyon 20 Jun (MMS) was extremely late for se. Arizona. Hooded Warbler has proven to be a rare regular summer visitor in se. Arizona; this year ad. males were in Miller Canyon 27 Jun (ph. P. Wilton), and in Sycamore Canyon 22 Jul (KK). Four American Redstarts and 3 Northern Parulas were reported around the state, about average for a summer season. An Audubon's Warbler was very late at San Bernardino N.W.R. 5 Jun (REW), as were a migrant Grace's Warbler at B.T.A. 5 Jun (R. Bowker) and a Townsend's Warbler on Mount Lemmon 4 Jun (OJ). No fewer than 5 Rufous-capped Warblers continued in Florida Canyon through the end of the summer (ph. LH), and 2 were present in French Joe Canyon, Whetstone Mountains 26 Jul+ (†R. Beck), where this species has bred previously. A Red-faced Warbler was at Hearst Tanks, South Rim of the Grand Canyon 21 Jul (BG); this species is casual at best along the edge of the Grand Canyon. One of the best finds of the season was Arizona's ninth (and the year's second) Slate-throated Redstart, a molting juv. present in Huachuca Canyon 24-29 Jul (M. Kehl; ph. LH, M. Taylor; ph., †AS, GHR).

This male Bobolink was discovered in a Sedona wetland 7 June 2013; this species has become increasingly rare in Arizona but has bred successfully in the eastern part of the state historically. ***Photograph by Stewart Boots.***

Black-chinned Sparrows were found in small numbers at higher-than-expected elevation, over 2400 m, in the Santa Catalina Mountains, through much of Jun (MMS, MP, DT), and a singing male was in upper Carr Canyon, Huachuca Mountains 18 Jun (M. Brown); this species is an erratic breeding species in se. Arizona away from "regular" breeding areas, such as along the e. slope of the Chiricahua Mountains. In the Santa Rita Mountains, 2 Five-striped Sparrows were present in Montosa Canyon 22 Jul+ (RF), and at least 5 were present in Chino Canyon 30 Jul+ (E. Elias, J. Wilson); this species has bred previously at both these locations, which have historically been seldom checked during the late summer. Individual male Lark Buntings at Las Cienegas N.C.A. 19 Jul (RF) and below Madera Canyon 22 Jul (RF) were early for arriving wintering birds. A Savannah Sparrow at San Bernardino N.W.R. 5 Jun (REW) was extremely late. A likely "pair" of White-crowned Sparrows (*oriantha*) was together high on Mount Baldy, *Apache* 22 Jun (JWi); this species has been detected historically at this location during the summer, and breeding was confirmed there in 1999, but they are seldom observed or reported. Another White-crowned Sparrow (*oriantha*) at the San Pedro House 24 Jun (ph. J. & M. Robbins) was at an odd location for this species during summer.

A singing male and a female Hepatic Tanager were at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon 17 Jun (BG), where this species is casual during the summer. A Varied Bunting was along Marijilda Creek at the e. base of the Pinaleño Mountains, *Graham* 26 Jun (JCo), both n. and e. of normal breeding areas in the state. Early Painted Buntings included individuals at San Bernardino N.W.R. 5 & 16 Jul (REW) and at Saint David 17-18 Jul (J. Groves).

An ad. male Bobolink was at the Sedona Wetlands Preserve 7 Jun (ph. S. Boots); this species remains a casual visitor in the state. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were present at scattered s. Arizona locations during Jun, including 20 at Green Valley S.T.P. 25 Jun (E. Dunn), but one at Paradise 19 Jul (J. Lewis) was certainly at a very odd habitat and location. Male Hooded Orioles were at odd locations n. of usual breeding areas at Taylor 1 Jun (N. Worth) and at Granite Basin 15 Jun (D. Moll). A Pine Siskin banded at Havasu N.W.R. 20 Jun (DD) was at a very low elevation for summer. A fledgling Lawrence's Goldfinch was found along the lower Bill Williams River 29 Jun (ph. J. West); this species is a casual breeding species along the L.C.R.V. and in Arizona in general.

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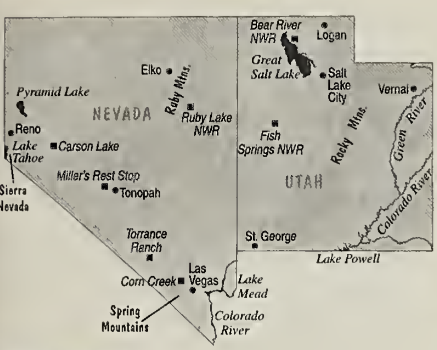

Rick Fridell

After a mild start to the summer with lower-than-normal temperatures throughout May and much of June, things heated up, and much of the Great Basin Region experienced blazing hot temperatures in July. Unusual nesting events included possibly nesting Least Bitterns in southwestern Utah, Snowy Plovers fledging young in extreme southern Nevada, and a Red-eyed Vireo paired with a Warbling Vireo at Reno, Nevada. Vagrant highlights included sightings of Brant, Long-tailed Jaeger, Mexican Whip-poor-will, and Red-faced Warbler in Nevada and Glossy Ibis, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Least Flycatcher in Utah.

Abbreviations: Farmington Bay (Farmington Bay W.M.A., *Davis*, UT); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, *Clark*, NV); Ouray (Ouray N.W.R., *Uintah*, UT); Zion (Zion N.P., *Washington*, UT).

WATERFOWL THROUGH SWIFTS

Surprisingly, Brant were found in two Nevada locations, at H.B.V.P. 14 Jun (CN, ph. RM) and Mason Valley W.M.A., *Lyon*, 3 Jul (RS). No fewer than 15 Neotropic Cormorants were documented: in *Cache* (15 Jul; ph. RO), *Salt Lake* (3-29 Jun; ph RY), *Weber* (11 Jun; MH, TA), and *Washington*, UT (3 Jun–31 Jul; RF, RD). A pair of **Least Bitterns** was discovered along the Virgin River, *Washington*, UT 18 Jun+ (ph. RD, RF, CE). A Green Heron visiting Farmington Bay 23 Jul (SR) was n. of expected range. Glossy Ibis were at Ogden Bay W.M.A., *Weber*, UT 11 Jun (MH) and Randolph, *Rich*, UT 6 Jul (MS, JC). A pair of Snowy Plovers discovered nesting along the lower Virgin River, *Clark*, NV was a major surprise. The plovers, first observed 28 Apr (BB), successfully fledged 2 young on 6 Jun (CC). The only other shorebird sighting of note this summer was 2 Stilt Sandpipers observed at the Provo Airport Dike, *Utah*, UT 16 Jul (EH). A Least Tern visited H.B.V.P. 28 Jun–1 Jul (JBr). An ad. **Long-tailed Jaeger** was photographed at Onion Valley Reservoir in seldom-birded *Humboldt*, NV 9 Jul (ph. JB).

It was a good summer for Yellow-billed Cuckoo sightings, including single individuals at three locations along the Virgin River near St. George, *Washington*, UT 21 Jun (RD), 26 Jun (RD, CE), and 16-22 Jul (RD, KD). Two cuckoos were also observed along the Walker River, near Shurz, *Mineral*, NV 7 Jul (DH). A Mexican Whip-poor-will was heard calling 1 Jun in the Spring Mountains, *Clark*, NV (JS). A hatch-year female Costa's Hummingbird was captured and banded at a surprisingly high elevation near 2100 m at Pine Valley Campground, *Washington*, UT 8 Jul (N&GB). Five Black Swifts were reported from Little Cottonwood Canyon, *Salt Lake*, UT 29 Jun (BO), and 6 were at Little Deer Creek Falls, *Duchesne*, UT 1-2 Jul (BO).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH ORIOLES

Least Flycatchers turned up at several Utah locations, including Logan, *Cache* 8-10 Jun (KM, AD, †RO), Ogden, *Weber* 16 Jun (†KP, MT, ph. TA), Ouray 18 Jun (ph., †BO), and Farmington, *Davis* 20-26 Jun (SR, †JC). Eastern Kingbirds were unexpected at Hop Valley, Zion 6 Jun (RF, RD) and Walker River, *Mineral*, NV 11 Jun (DH). A Red-eyed Vireo was reported 22 Jun from Las Vegas, *Clark*, NV (JSw). One of the highlights of the season was a **Red-eyed Vireo** observed nesting at Rancho San Rafael, *Washoe*, NV 1 Jul (ph., † FP et al.). The vireo was apparently a female and paired with a male Warbling Vireo; the birds successfully fledged 2 young on 11 Jul; however, the fledglings died on 14 Jul (due to Steller's Jay and picknickers; FP). The Red-eyed Vireo may have been joined by a singing male in late Jul, and at least one Red-eyed Vireo was observed there through 8 Aug, although it is unknown whether additional nesting was attempted. A singing Gray Catbird was at Kolob Reservoir, *Washington*, UT 5-6 Jun (RD, RF).

An Ovenbird was found at Oasis, Beatty, *Nye*, NV 1 Jun (LC), and a singing male Black-and-white Warbler was photographed along the Walker River near Shurz, *Mineral*, NV 13 Jul (RL). American Redstarts were reported from Elk Ridge, *San Juan*, UT 29 Jun (JH) and Fletcher Canyon, *Clark*, NV 4 Jul–3 Aug (AL). A Northern Parula was at Ash Meadows, N.W.R., *Nye*, NV 1 Jun (GS). A female Magnolia Warbler was photographed at Floyd Lamb Park, Las Vegas, *Clark*, NV 7 Jun (AL). A Hermit Warbler was found at Lava Point, Zion 24 Jul (KW). A **Red-faced Warbler** lingered in Fletcher Canyon, *Clark*, NV 29 Jun–3 Aug (ph AL). Painted Redstarts were reported from Zion Canyon, Zion 1 Jun (LLu) and Mount Charleston, *Clark*, NV 15 Jun (NN). A Lark Bunting was photographed at the Bear River Wetlands, *Rich*, UT 3 Jun (PH). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Pineview Reservoir, *Weber*, UT 6 Jul (JC, MS). A pair of Hooded Orioles was observed n. of expected range at Reno, NV 25 Jul (BR).

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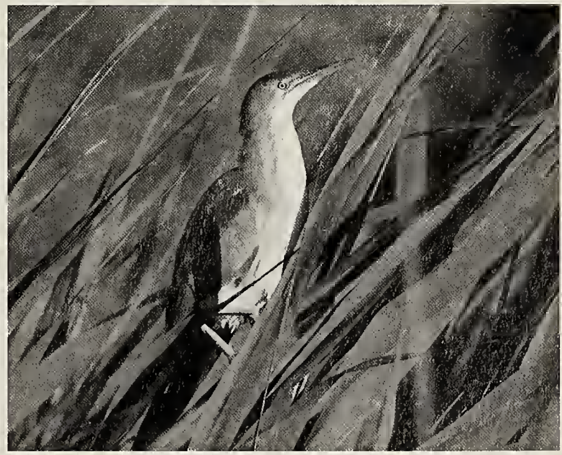
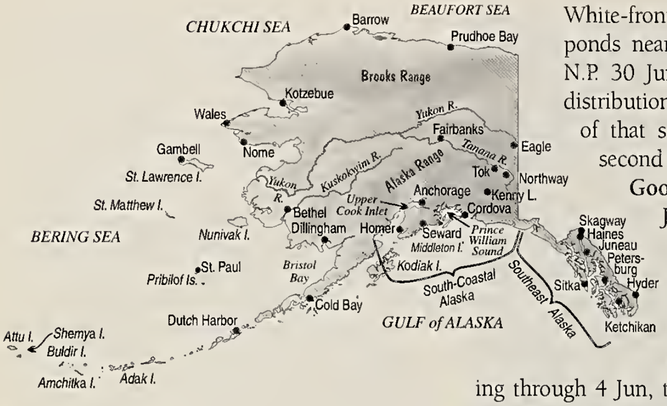
One of two Brant reported in Nevada this summer, this individual visited the Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Clark County 14 June 2013. *Photograph by Randy Michal.*



Two Least Bitterns were observed in a marsh along the Virgin River near St. George, Washington County, Utah between 18 June (here 19 June) and late August 2013. These are the first documented in Utah since 1984. *Photograph by Rob Dobbs.*

Alaska



Thede Tobish

June ushered in a dramatic weather shift toward above-average temperatures, a stark contrast with the the cool and very late spring season. A strong high-pressure system built out across the Region's north and created nearly two straight months of calm, clear, and very warm conditions. Indeed, the Fairbanks area broke historic records, with number of days above 80° F, while Anchorage did similarly with consecutive days above 70° F. Barrow experienced its warmest June and second warmest July on record. Given the extreme cold spring period, northbound passerine migration was very late, extending into mid-June. Territorial songbirds sang intermittently until mid-June, and shorebird nesting appeared to be collectively late on both the Bering Sea and on the North Slope. Following a recent trend, another unusually strong Beaufort Sea summer season cyclone shattered the Arctic sea ice. This has happened enough over the past 5-10 years that climatologists have created a new sea ice category: "decayed ice." This ice type is particularly vulnerable to summer storms to the point that pack ice losses may increase faster than originally modeled. Diminished summer ice cover appears to have an impact on the jet stream and on storm patterns across the North American continent. This summer again produced a wide array of late-moving, wandering passerine rarities across the Region, mostly in June. Southbound shorebird movements were modest, with few highlights, likely attributable to the fine weather.

WATERFOWL THROUGH EGRETS

Many reports of late-moving geese in Alaska's Southeast were a result of the protracted, cold spring season; more than the usual mid- to late Jun reports came in for Cackling Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese, and Brant from across Southeast. Most notable for these late geese were 2 Greater White-fronteds at Gustavus 4 Jul (BBP), making a rare mid-summer report from that end of Southeast. Two Tule Greater White-fronteds with brood in tow on ponds near Wonder Lake in Denali N.P. 30 Jun (TB) provided a useful distributional report from the n. end of that subspecies' range. Alaska's second **Lesser White-fronted Goose** appeared at St. Paul 21 Jun, where it hung around through 26 Jun (St. Paul Tours, ph. DG). The Region's only prior record was a lone early Jun bird at Attu in 1994. By lingering through 4 Jun, the Gustavus Ross's Goose from the spring season squeaked into the summer period and established a new late spring migrant date for Southeast (BBP, ph. NKD). With continuing full season coverage, St. Paul observers note increasing frequency and counts of summer Cackling Geese, evidenced by a count of 33 there 26 Jun–6 Jul (St. Paul Tours).

Overall, it seemed a weak summer for interesting waterfowl, perhaps due to the poor spring conditions. A Gadwall was at Barrow 8 Jun (BK, FS), and 2 were on the Canning River delta 11 Jun (ID). Two significant late, large dabbler concentrations included 20 Blue-winged Teal and 100 Northern Shovelers near Juneau 2 Jun (DS). Some 12 Greater Scaup at St. Paul 27 Jun (St. Paul Tours) made a record summer count there. Three Ruddy Ducks were variously reported from their Kenny Lake stronghold s. of Glennallen off the Richardson Hwy. 15 Jun–4 Jul (m.ob.); another lone bird was on Willow Lake along the Richardson Hwy. near milepost 88 on 15 Jul (BL, WT). A group of 13 male White-winged Scoters at Tangle Lakes on the e. end of the Denali Hwy. 20 Jun (VENT) was likely comprised of post-breeding molt migrants, not uncommon in the Interior. A peak count of 48 male Barrow's Goldeneyes in the same area 19 Jun (VENT) was an incredible summer aggregation for this intermountain section of the Interior and possibly also a group of post-breeding molt migrants.

First noted in late May on St. Paul, a Red-throated Loon pair built a nest and appeared to sit on eggs in early Jul, though the nest was ultimately abandoned by the end of Jul (St. Paul Tours). Red-throated Loon is typically a very rare annual migrant in the Pribilofs, and this represents the first nesting attempt for any loon species there. Of the handful of Arctic Loon reports this season, the most significant included singles from Attu 2 & 4 Jun (BM, IH) and at St. Paul 6-7 Jul (St. Paul Tours), only the second Jul Pribilof record. At the n. edge of South-coastal Alaska, Kenny Lake produced another grebe rarity this summer—a Pied-billed Grebe 8 Jun (NRH, ph. LHD, EWC). Most of the six or so prior South-coastal reports represent overshoots from earlier in the spring. Offshore at Kodiak, a lone Horned Grebe on Women's Bay 19 & 23 Jun (ph. RAM) accounted for one of very few summer records where the species is not known to nest. Ninety Western Grebes in Chichagof Pass near Wrangell 31 Jul (BHD) provided a new summer high count for Southeast and added to previous summer reports from four different years from e. Sumner Strait waters. Except the shore-based report of 25+ Mottled Petrels at St. Paul 30 Jun (St. Paul Tours), tubenose reports were scarce, likely in part due to slow to warm sea surface temperatures in the North Gulf of Alaska. A lone Short-tailed Shearwater feeding with thousands of gulls in Sitakaday Narrows, Glacier Bay 14 Jul (PEL) was unexpected; the status of this common North Gulf visitor is virtually unknown at Glacier Bay. St. Paul birders counted 750 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels from shore during the 30 Jun storm (St. Paul Tours), the Pribilofs' second highest count ever. A lone Double-crested Cormorant circulated up and down the Nome shoreline in Jun and through 11 Jul (AB, EF et al.); the species remains casual there, with occasional summer observations. Single **Great Egrets** were seen 3 Jun at Tanacross, a first for the Interior (KD, vt. LB), and at Kake 9-10 Jun (ph. JFB, SK), at least the eleventh record for Southeast.

HAWKS THROUGH ALCIDS

The long-staying "resident" St. Paul White-tailed Eagle was reported 10-12 times beginning 2 Jun (St. Paul Tours). Following good numbers of spring reports, a Swainson's Hawk was at Ester s. of Fairbanks 11 Jun (FW, JW). Most of the occasional summer reports come from the rolling foothills in the e. Interior. Susie found a pair of Red-tailed Hawks at a nest near Klukwan out of Haines in early May that included a male *harlani* and a female *harlani* x *calurus* (ph. CPS). The nest held 2 chicks 21 Jun. Another *harlani* was described at Gustavus 14 Jun (BBP). *Harlani* Red-taileds breed in Interior Alaska and adjacent sections of the Yukon Territory and are rare migrants across the n. Southeast mainland. With recent sporadic summer records from n. Southeast, *harlani* is likely a rare, local breeder there and intergrades with other Red-tailed subspecies. Sora reports followed the recent increasing trend, including singles well n. and inland near McCarthy 12 Jun (JR) and from the Palmer Hayflats 2 Jul (JH), plus more expected Southeast reports of single birds from Gustavus 7-21 Jun (BBP, NKD, JFS), Juneau 19 Jun (MWS et al.), and milepost 16 of the Chilkat Hwy. out of Haines 14 Jul (RBB). Soras breed occasionally on the Southeast Mainland river corridors.

This summer produced a weak shorebird showing, with few rarities or notable staging concentrations beyond the usual mid-Jun overshoot season. Killdeer often show up in suspected nesting areas, usually in small numbers, but breeding evidence is scant. An ad. Killdeer with a single chick around the Gustavus Airport 25 Jun (NKD) followed some May sightings in that area and provided a first local nesting since the 1970s. Photographs of an ad. Solitary Sandpiper attending 3 young in bog habitat near Chiniak Lagoon on Kodiak 20 Jul (ph. LHD, RAM) constituted only that island's second breeding record. Significant Lesser Yellowlegs sightings away from Interior boreal habitats came from the North Slope, including 2 early birds at Galbraith Lake 1 Jun (ID) and singles at Barrow 5 & 10 Jun (BK, RBB). The first Aleutian record, a **Spotted Sandpiper** was located around the shore of Kalekta Bay 9 Jun (ph. SLG); this location is 10 km ne. of the town of Unalaska.

Zimmer submitted compelling details of a calling, flyby **Little Curlew** along the Gambell shoreline 10 Jun (†KJZ). The Region's only prior report was another lone bird at Gambell from Jun 1989, seen also by Zimmer! Ad ad. Bristle-thighed Curlew was notable offshore at St. Paul 27 Jul (St. Paul Tours); most Bristle-thigheds at this time are staging on coastal heath of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. There are five previous Pribilof Jul records. A dazzling-looking Ruff displaying among Pectoral Sandpipers near Barrow 15 Jun was rumored to have been present a few days prior; it was last seen 17 Jun (ph. NRH, LHD, LJO, TT). Ruffs are sporadic Jun visitors to concentrated shorebird display areas of the North Slope, with most reports from Barrow and Prudhoe Bay. It is presumed that the bulk of Alaska-breeding Stilt Sandpipers reach North Slope nesting sites via e. Interior locations or by overflights of the broad boreal zone. Overshoots are otherwise occasional, mostly from Bering Sea locales. This year's unique Stilt Sandpiper report came from the Bering Sea at St. Paul, where one was found 5 Jun (St. Paul Tours), amazingly the Pribilof's eleventh record. The same gravel pond at Gambell produced a Little Stint 4 Jun (JLD, RC) and a Temminck's Stint 5 Jun (RC et al.). Both species are occasionally discovered in gravel edges like this in Jun at Gambell, but neither is annual. This summer's Wilson's Phalaropes add to the Region's increasing trend of annual late spring and early summer occurrences, including 2 at Juneau 30 May (RJG, GBV, MWS, PAR), other singles there 1 Jun (GBV) and 22 Jul (SCH), plus 2 at Gustavus 27 Jun (BBP). An impressive concentration of 25,000 female Red Phalaropes estimated off St. Paul 12 Jul (St. Paul Tours) provides a fine reference for the species' fall staging peak.

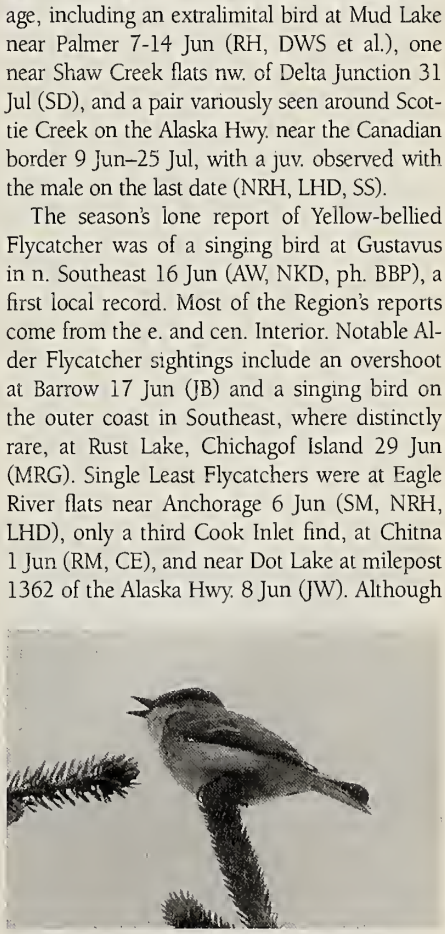
Although Black-legged Kittiwakes are increasingly reaching into Upper Cook Inlet to Anchorage in most recent summers, a stray reported on Tainana Lake n. of Wasilla 9 Jul (DWS) was an unprecedented inland find. Another in the occasional Ring-billed Gull observations from the e. Interior came in from Clearwater Lake, one bird near Delta Junction 2 Jun (JR-G) Two Thayer's Gulls near Anchor Point on the sw. Kenai Peninsula 12 Jul (DWS) were anomalous for location and date; the bulk of Cook Inlet records for the species come in from mid- to late fall. The infamous Prudhoe Bay landfill produced a black-backed gull slam this summer. A clean ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** appeared there 10 Jul (ph. BR) after the same observer photographed a third-cycle **Great Black-backed Gull** 5 Jul (ph. BR). We have two previously documented Lesser Black-backed records from the North Slope, from Prudhoe, and the Great Black-backed Gull is only Alaska's third record following a recent fall juv. at Barrow. The Glacier Bay area produced exceptional Aleutian Tern counts, most from around suitable nesting substrate and near areas where nests were found in 2005. Up to 3 juvs. were with ads. in the Bay's west arm 12-19 Jul and up to 40 ads. and one nest were located in an Arctic Tern colony in Adams Inlet 23 Jun (NKD). Suspected for years, Caspian Terns were finally documented nesting in Glacier Bay when 20 ads. and eight nests were discovered at Flapjack Island 13 Jun (TML, CB). Caspian Terns were initially recorded in Southeast in 1981, and following a population expansion on the Pacific Coast, the species has become a regular visitor and rare breeder in coastal Alaska. At least 3 Dovekies continued from spring through mid-Jun at St. Paul (St. Paul Tours), and singles were noted until 16 Jul. Summer Dovekie records in the s. half of the Bering Sea are casual and refer generally to lingering winter individuals that occasionally reach s. of winter pack ice extremes. This summer's best Kittlitz's Murrelet concentrations included 800 near the Glacier Bay mouth 3 Jun (PEL) and then 1000 in the Bay's upper west arm 9 & 12 Jul (NKD). Aggregations of Kittlitz's like this are typical around known nesting strongholds where geography, food sources, and tides concentrate ads. and chicks.

DOVES THROUGH STARLING

Eurasian Collared-Doves were widely reported throughout Southeast, with an increase in sightings in n. Southeast. Several pairs likely attempted to nest in the Gustavus area, with a local maximum of 6 (NKD). Singles showed up in nearby Bartlett Cove in early Jun (HH), on Drake Island in Glacier Bay 19 Jun (HPL, RKN), and then two were near a home on Lemesurier Island in Icy Strait on several Jun dates and one again in Jul (BC, HPL). Very rare for midsummer was a Mourning Dove at Klukwan in the Haines River valley 26+ Jun (ph. CPS). A wary gray-morph *Cuculus* cuckoo was flushed and seen briefly at St. Paul 25 Jun (St. Paul Tours); it was not identified to species. Well beyond the distribution of breeding habitat from the Sitka Spruce/Western Hemlock coastal forest, a Western Screech-Owl was heard calling in daylight at remote Jim Lake e. of Palmer in the Matanuska Valley 7 Jun (RH, DWS). The closest previous record was an extralimital late winter bird near Girdwood.

A single Vaux's Swift was notably rare at Gustavus 4 Jun (NKD, BBP); the species occurs regularly in Southeast as far n. as Lynn Canal. Birders managed to photograph an elusive **White-throated Needletail** at Attu 5 Jun (ph.; *fide* JP), the first in the Region since 1985 and later than most spring reports from the w. Aleutians. Anna's Hummingbirds made a good showing in Southeast, where there were multiple reports at Juneau, including a pair 14-21 Jul (JGC) and a female 30 Jul–4 Aug (ph. GSB), and multiple reports from Ketchikan, where a lingering male stayed through 5 Jun (AWP) and 2 females showed up 30 Jul+ (JFK). Summer records remain rare and irregular. Scattered Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports were about the summer average, including an extralimital bird at Mud Lake near Palmer 7-14 Jun (RH, DWS et al.), one near Shaw Creek flats nw. of Delta Junction 31 Jul (SD), and a pair variously seen around Scottie Creek on the Alaska Hwy. near the Canadian border 9 Jun–25 Jul, with a juv. observed with the male on the last date (NRH, LHD, SS).

The season's lone report of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was of a singing bird at Gustavus in n. Southeast 16 Jun (AW, NKD, ph. BBP), a first local record. Most of the Region's reports come from the e. and cen. Interior. Notable Alder Flycatcher sightings include an overshoot at Barrow 17 Jun (JB) and a singing bird on the outer coast in Southeast, where distinctly rare, at Rust Lake, Chichagof Island 29 Jun (MRG). Single Least Flycatchers were at Eagle River flats near Anchorage 6 Jun (SM, NRH, LHD), only a third Cook Inlet find, at Chitna 1 Jun (RM, CE), and near Dot Lake at milepost 1362 of the Alaska Hwy. 8 Jun (JW). Although



Southeast Alaska had a heavy showing of rare flycatchers in summer 2013, highlighted by this Eastern Phoebe at Yakutat 20-25 (here 20) June, making the state's sixth record. ***Photograph by Gwen S. Baluss.***

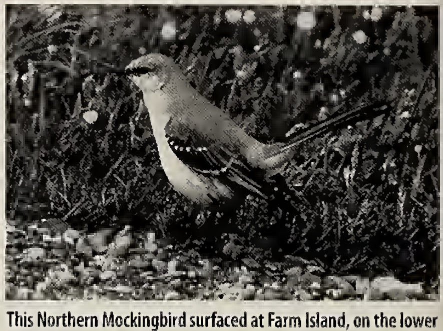
Hammond's Flycatcher is a local, uncommon breeder on the larger Southeast Mainland rivers, it is essentially unknown w. of there on the North Gulf coast. One at Bartlett Cove near Gustavus 13 Jun (NKD) provided a second local summer report. A heard-only, obvious overshoot Pacific-slope Flycatcher was out of range and on the move in an Anchorage neighborhood 21 Jun (TT); summer records away from Southeast are unknown in the Region. A singing **Eastern Phoebe** was a surprise at Yakutat 20-25 Jun (ph. GSB et al.). There are now six Alaska records of the species, mostly early summer overshoots in Southeast. Both Eastern and Western Kingbirds made a showing in Southeast, whence most observations come, with a Western report from Pack Creek, Admiralty Island 12 Jul (RH, GBV), and an Eastern farther n. at Gustavus 30 Jul (ph. NKD, BBP). This summer's single Cassin's Vireo sighting came from along the Chilkat River near Haines 4 Jun (PEL, WLP); this very rare but increasing vireo is an annual summer visitor to Southeast and has bred near Haines. A Warbling Vireo at Rust Lake, Chichagof Island 30 Jun (MRG) provided a very rare offshore record for Southeast. Single Red-eyed Vireos turned up at Juneau 25 Jun–6 Jul (GBV et al.) and 15 Jul (GSB), at Mosquito Lake on the Chilkat River near Haines 14 Jul (RBB), and at Ketchikan 29 Jun–7 Jul (ph. JHL, AWP, SCH), the latter providing a second local record and about the third for the Alexander Archipelago. Three Tree Swallows pushed out of their Interior boreal habitats to Barrow 10 Jun (BK), where casual. Forty Bank Swallows that occupied a nesting colony in a woodchip pile on Wrangell Island 4-22 Jun (JC) likely represented a first confirmed nesting record for the Alexander Archipelago. The usual smattering of extralimital Barn Swallows was recorded, including at least one at Barrow 15-17, 19, & 26 Jun (NRH, LHD, LJO, TT, BK, BZ), one at Teshekpuk Lake 15 Jun (*fide* LHD), and another at Galbraith Lake 2 Jun (ID), all rare for the North Slope, and singles at Anchorage 3 Jun (LHD, NRH) and Kenny Lake 17 Jun (RBB).

The Barrow area lived up to its reputation for exceptional Jun rarities when a **Dark-sided Flycatcher** spent 17 Jun e. of town (ph. LHD, NRH. LJO, TT). This report marks the Region's first for the mainland and for Northern Alaska. About 20 previous records come from the Pribilofs and w. Aleutians. Early Jun Siberian Rubythroats were on-time arrivals at Attu, where nearly annual, with a peak of 6 reported there 4 Jun (IH). Another late rubythroat wandered n. to the Gambell middens 13 Jun (CF, MS, PL), where there are perhaps four prior summer reports. A female-type Mountain Bluebird, described in the Nome area ca. 1-5 Jun (RBB) was an exceptional find way n. and w. of the typical sightings, most of which are from the e. Interior. This marks a first for Western Alaska. An Eyebrowed Thrush was at Kiska 7 Jun (BM, IH) and another at St. Paul 10 Jun (St. Paul Tours). Kodiak birders discovered a food-carrying pair of American Robins in a local neighborhood 19 & 24 Jun (ph. SW, CT), only the third Kodiak area nest record. A **Northern Mockingbird** appeared at Farm Lake on the lower Stikine River 9 Jun (ph. EB); nearly half of the Region's approximately 20 records come from the summer months.

Rare at any season, this Common Grackle hung around Koerner's Ketchikan feeders 20-22 (here 20) June 2013, the tenth Alaska record and the third from this yard. *Photograph by S. C Heinl.*

WAGTAILS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

In addition to the usual scattered Southeast Cedar Waxwing reports, one was along the Denali Hwy. in the Interior 24 Jun (ph. JM), one of few for the Interior and probably a first for the summer. By far the majority of extralimital reports come from autumn from coastal locations. A Northern Waterthrush at Gustavus 1 Jun (BBP) was that area's first ever summer record. Tennessee Warblers showed well this summer, with reports from Southeast at Glacier Bay 19 Jun HPL, RKN) and up to 4 at Juneau 1-24 Jun (m.ob.); an Interior report came from milepost 15 of the Denali Hwy. 5 Jun (NL); and up to 3 in total were noted on the McCarthy Rd. in South-coastal Alaska 11 & 13 Jun (JR). Tennessee Warblers are sporadic visitors in the Interior. Small numbers of Common Yellowthroats continued to be found in suitable habitat in the e. Interior in summer, including 4 near Scottie Creek 9 Jun, then one there 25 Jul (NRH, LHD, SS), plus a few on the Northway Rd. in Jun and Jul ((NRH, LHD, SS). **Cape May Warblers** stole the summer headlines when early Jun observations of singing males on the McCarthy Rd. led to discovery of a breeding pair later in Jul. A singing Cape May Warbler was at milepost 18.5 of the McCarthy Rd. 10-12 Jun (JR). Local resident Mark Vail tracked down an unknown singing bird first heard near his garden near milepost 51 of McCarthy Rd. 7 Jun (ph. MV et al.) and identified it as a male Cape May, which defended a territory in a large plot of budworm-infested Black Spruce. He discovered the female in the territory on roughly 20 Jun. After daily monitoring, Vail located the nest when the ads. were bringing gobs of budworms 8 Jul. The young quickly dispersed later in the month. This area is one of few sections of the Region that has occasional budworm outbreaks, and these birds had to have crossed the Wrangell Mountains from Canadian nesting areas to reach this outpost. The Denali Hwy. produced a singing Palm Warbler between MP 91 and 92 on 19 Jun (†MH); there are few Alaska reports outside the fall season and only two or three from the Interior, one of which was also a Jun bird.



This Northern Mockingbird surfaced at Farm Island, on the lower Stikine River, Alaska 9 June 2013. *Photograph by Earl Benitz.*

Although Chipping Sparrow nests uncommonly in riparian areas of the Mainland Southeast river systems, it is casual w. of there in the North Gulf, so 3 in a Gustavus neighborhood 15-19 Jun (NKD, BBP) made an excellent showing. A lone Chipping Sparrow was an odd find on an unusual date 9 Jun in the alpine thickets above Anchorage (ph. KC, JC), where the species is casual, mostly in fall. Alaska's twelfth **Clay-colored Sparrow**, and fourth for the spring season, was documented at Klukwan 2 Jun (ph. CPS). The species breeds as close to the Region as ne. British Columbia. A Barrow yard harbored a singing Fox Sparrow 14 Jun (LHD, NRH, LJO, TT); the species is noted there occasionally in early summer. White-crowned Sparrows also regularly overshoot boreal nesting habitats to the North Slope, but a count of 22+ singing birds in the Barrow village was probably the highest one-day tally for Northern Alaska. Following a 4 Jul sighting of an ad. White-crowned Sparrow in the subalpine habitat above Juneau, probable nesting was indicated by an agitated ad. carrying food in the same area 27 Jul (ACC). The birds were not identified to subspecies; *gambelii* nests in nearby British Columbia and *pugetensis* has recently been reported at sea level nesting in Ketchikan, the only prior breeding location for Southeast.

Three Black-headed Grosbeaks were reported along the Stikine River 11 Jun WTS), where this increasingly regular visitor occurs annually in very small numbers. Another was also found at Wrangell 20 Jun (GS, *fide* BHD). This species has been expanding n. from British Columbia over the past 50 years. Totally out of range was a male **Bobolink** near Swan Lake, Sitka 8 Jun (BPT); there are only three prior Alaska records. After abandoning a nest in May at Sitka's Swan Lake, a female Red-winged Blackbird built a new nest, paired with a second-year male, and fledged 3-4 young by early Aug (ph. MRG). This species is a fairly common local breeder in mainland Alaska, but there are no prior nesting records for the outer islands of the Alexander Archipelago. A male Common Grackle found Koerner's Ketchikan feeder 20-22 Jun (ph. JFK) and provided about the tenth Alaska record—amazingly, the third from this same yard. This species breeds as close as ne. British Columbia; the breeding range recently expanded w. of the Rocky Mountains, and the species has occurred with increasing frequency in the Pacific Northwest. Looking really out of place was a Brown-headed Cowbird on the tundra at Woolley Lagoon out of Nome 28 Jun (ph. NRH, LHD, JJ, SM). This represents Nome's second record and one of very few from the Bering Sea region.

A singing female-plumaged Purple Finch was a significant find near Tok in the e. Interior 8 Jun (ph. JW, *fide* DDG). There are only two prior summer reports from the Interior of this species, which breeds as close as e./cen. Yukon. Single Pine Siskins that drifted offshore this summer to St. Paul 7 & 20 Jul (St. Paul Tours) were a little earlier than most reports for the Bering Sea, most of which are from autumn. Late-staying birders at Gambell discovered a male Hawfinch 9-11 Jun (KJZ et al.). There are about four previous summer reports from that outpost. For the second consecutive year, a male House Sparrow was found on Farm Island on the lower Stikine River 13 Jun (ph. BKN); an overwintering male at Petersburg was present there through at least 7 Jul (TO). Ketchikan's breeding population continues to thrive.

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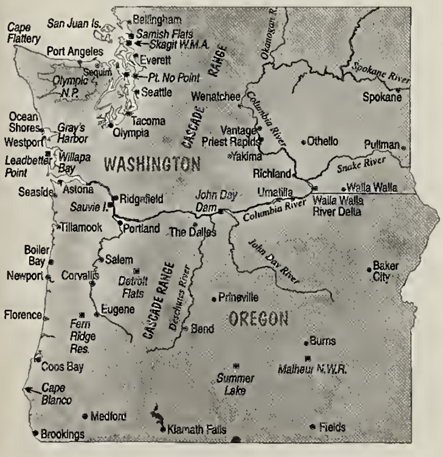
Cape Flattery
San Juan Is.
Bellingham
Samish Flats
Skagit W.M.A.
Port Angeles
Everett
Sequim
Olympic N.P.
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Seattle
CASCADE RANGE
Okanogan R.
Spokane River
Spokane
Wenatchee
Columbia River
Ocean Shores
Gray's Harbor
Westport
Tacoma
Olympia
Vantage
Priest Rapids
Othello
Pullman
Yakima
Leadbetter Point
Willapa Bay
WASHINGTON
Richland
Snake River
Seaside
Astoria
Ridgefield
Sauvie I.
John Day Dam
Umatilla
Walla Walla
Walla Walla River Delta
Columbia River
Tillamook
Portland
The Dalles
Boiler Bay
Salem
John Day River
Baker City
Newport
Corvallis
Detroit Flats
CASCADE RANGE
Deschutes River
Prineville
Florence
Eugene
Fern Ridge Res.
Bend
OREGON
Burns
Coos Bay
Summer Lake
Malheur N.W.R.
Cape Blanco
Medford
Klamath Falls
Fields
Brookings

David Irons
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The weather in the first half of June was fairly typical, but a more unsettled weather pattern developed late in the month. Much cooler and wetter conditions than expected prevailed, especially on 20 June, when normally dry areas of eastern Washington were soaked by heavy rains. That day, Spokane International Airport logged a record low of 50° F. July was warmer and drier than normal. El Niño/Southern Oscillation-neutral conditions continued through at least June, while sea surface temperatures were about average through the period. Another new bird for Washington highlighted the season, which rivaled the summer of 2012 for remarkable rarities and intriguing events. Pelagic coverage was excellent, with reports from three Alaska-bound cruise ships and two traditional trips out of each state. Spectacular shorebirding was marked by two species worthy of boldface and an astonishing array of June shorebirds at Dungeness Bay, Clallam County. Hummingbirds once again stirred interest, especially near Spokane, where two different hybrids were documented at the same feeder. Local nesting firsts, a couple of longspurs, "eastern" warblers, and wayward sparrows headlined among the passerines.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Reservoir, *Lane*); Nisqually (Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston*); N.S.C.B. (North Spit Coos Bay, *Coos*); O.S. (Ocean Shores, *Grays Harbor*); P.N.P. (Point No Point, *Kitsap*); P.T. (Puget Trough); Ridgefield (Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*); S.R.D. (Sandy River delta, *Multnomah*); W.V. (Willamette Valley): W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla River Delta, *Walla Walla*). "Eastside" and "westside" indicate locations e. and w. of the Cascade crest, respectively.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Seventy-plus Brant tallied in w. Washington included an exceptional 44 at Dungeness, *Clallam* 14 Jun (BW); in most summers, just a handful of Brant linger after May. Although there are now more than 20 summer records of Cackling Goose for the Region (all since 2005), a *taverneri* Cackling at Republic, *Ferry* 21-22 Jun (DW, JI, BW, RS) makes just the second such report from e. Washington. Eleven Mute Swans of unknown provenance appeared at Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* 16 Jun (P. Kahler) and remained through the period; this species is not established in the Region. Washington's summering Trumpeter Swans were once limited to residents at Turnbull N.W.R., but others have been noted nearly every summer of late. This season a Trumpeter appeared at Skagit W.M.A., *Skagit* 21 Jul (RM), and another oversummered near Monroe, *Snohomish* (m.ob.). Up to 6 Redheads summered at Ridgefield, where they have bred four times previously, accounting for all but one of w. Washington's nesting records. Ads. were present 2 Jun+ (B. Crawford, m.ob.), but no young were observed. Nine Greater Scaup were noted from four locations in *Ferry/Okanogan* 21-23 Jun; Greaters now summer regular in e. Washington, with most found along the Columbia River, where thousands winter. Two Harlequin Ducks at Davis Lake 6 Jun (R. Robb) furnished the first *Klamath* record in at least 25 years. Black Scoters, rare during summer, included 4 near Kalaloch, *Jefferson* 2 Jun (DW), one at Penn Cove, *Island* 8 Jun (B. Bell), and another at Foulweather Bluff, *Kitsap* 12-18 Jul (BW).

Lake Abert, *Lake* is the Region's most important staging area for post-breeding Eared Grebes, as evidenced by 6800 there 23 Jul (AH, CH, ES). A raft of 400 Western Grebes off of Crissey Field S.P., *Curry* 28 Jul included at least 11 Clark's Grebes (D. Munson); this tally of Clark's is a coastal record for any season. The only other coastal Clark's were 2 at Yachats 7 Jul (AH, CH). Increasing offshore explorations are reshaping our notions about Laysan Albatross. Formerly considered absent from the Region's waters May–Sep, Laysans are now detected annually during these months; singles were off Coos 8 Jun (PL) and off Newport 27 Jul (GGi). Birders aboard cruise ships in Oregon waters provided all of this summer's *Pterodroma* reports. Most of Oregon and Washington's Murphy's Petrels are found Apr–May, so 5 off Oregon 10 Jul (four counties) and another off of *Curry* 18 Jul were considered surprising (PL). Prior summer reports include a dead bird near Newport in Jun 1981 and 2 "dark *Pterodromas*" reported as Murphy's off Washington in Jun 2000. Two Hawaiian/Galapagos Petrels and one Hawaiian Petrel were 60 km off *Curry* 18 Jul (†PL), and another Hawaiian was off *Curry* 30 Jul (†PL); these represent the Region's first summer reports. A goodly 5000 Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen in less than three hours off *Clallam* 17 Jul (PL). The season's lone Flesh-footed Shearwater was off *Lincoln* 8 Jun, while a much more surprising Buller's Shearwater was off *Lane* the same day (†PL); Buller's aren't expected in the Region until mid-Aug. Fourteen Manx Shearwaters off the Olympic Peninsula, where now annual, included a daily maximum of 5 near Destruction Island, *Jefferson* 11 Jul (RM, A. Baker, A. Willoughby).

Since American White Pelicans started nesting at Miller Sands e. of Astoria, they have become regular in sw. Washington bordering the Columbia River; this season's daily maxima included 28 at Ridgefield 7 Jul (RM) and 20 near Stevenson, *Skamania* 12 Jul (C. Putnam). None were noted away from the Columbia River in w. Washington. Brown Pelicans were absent from the P.T. this summer, and 2 at Port Angeles 30 Jun (J. Mullaly) were the only birds noted in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Three Great Egret nests discovered along Catherine Creek n. of Ladd Marsh W.M.A. 10 Jun provided the first breeding record for *Union* (C. Nowak). Prior to 2003, Snowy Egrets appeared to be increasing in Washington, but reports have dwindled over the past decade. One at Columbia N.W.R., *Grant* 6-8 Jun (G. Warrick) was just the third from the past seven years. Single **Glossy Ibis** at Malheur 13 Jun (ph. AH, CH) and Burns, *Harney* 21 Jul (†L. Ferrenburg) add to five prior records from Oregon, all in *Harney* since 2005. Following a decent spring showing into e. Washington, single White-faced Ibis were at Potholes S.P., *Grant* 2 Jun (A. Kulkarni, K. Black) and at Richland, *Benton* 14-15 Jun (B. Derting).

A White-tailed Kite near Oak Harbor, *Island* 21 Jun (R. Jaszkowski) was unusually far n. and especially noteworthy given this species' near-disappearance from sw. Washington after the Dec 2008 freeze. In e. Washington, where breeding Bald Eagles are increasing, another new nest site was located near Lyons Ferry Park, *Franklin* 1 Jun (*fide* M&MLD). Although Red-shouldered Hawks have not been confirmed as a Washington nester, an ad. at Julia Butler Hansen N.W.R. 28 Jul (R. Koppendrayer) adds yet another summer season report from that state's sw. corner. A imm. Broad-winged Hawk was at Page Springs Campground, *Harney* 3 Jun (T. McNamara); most of Oregon's Apr–Jun records have come from the Harney Basin, with many involving imm. birds. A Swainson's Hawk at Wa'atch River, *Clallam* 1 Jun (CW, RS) provided just the sixth summer record for w. Washington, all since 2007. One or 2 Sandhill Cranes spent the season in the New River/Floras Lake bottomlands near the *Coos/Curry* border (K. Andersson et al.); cranes are rare on Oregon's outer coast at any season.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

An American Golden-Plover at F.R.R. 21 Jun (ph. JS) and a Pacific Golden-Plover at Dungeness Bay, *Clallam* 17-20 Jun (ph. D. Lambert, ph. BW) were surprisingly early; prior to 2001, there were virtually no Jun golden-plover records for the Region and only a few have occurred mid-month. Four more Pacifics 25-31 Jul fell within the expected window for southbound birds. **American Avocets** bred in w. Oregon for the first time, with a pair and 2 recently hatched juvs. enlivening F.R.R. 15 Jun–19 Jul (JS, m.ob.); the only other successful westside nesting was at Crockett Lake, *Island* in 2000. Although Black-necked Stilts now breed at several sites in the W.V., they remain rare in the Umpqua Valley; thus one at Roseburg 1 Jun was unusual (J. Houseman, MH). Washington's Jun tallies of Greater Yellowlegs were unprecedented, with 8 birds at six locations in w. Washington 9-19 Jun, and 15 more from eight locations in e. Washington 10-22 Jun; assigning these birds as northbound, southbound, or summering would be speculative. Jun records of Willets in e. Washington are few. One at Millet Pond, *Walla Walla* 7-8 Jun was noteworthy and may have been a holdover, as one of 5 spring Willets in e. Washington was at this location in early May (M&MLD). Aside from a small wintering flock on Coos Bay, Willets are no longer found regularly along the Oregon coast, thus one at New River, *Coos* 29 Jul was significant (KC, DL). A Lesser Yellowlegs at Tyson Ponds, *Walla Walla* 15 Jun (M&MLD) was between expected northbound and southbound migration dates for this species. Most of the Region's Bar-tailed Godwits are detected Jul–Oct, making one at Westport, *Grays Harbor* 14 Jul+ (BS) more expected than the Jun bird noted below (see S.A. feature, next page). In e. Oregon, where southbound Marbled Godwits tend to show up Aug–Sep, singles were noted at Summer Lake W.M.A. 24 Jul (AH, CH, ES) and Ladd Marsh W.M.A. 26 Jul (T. Bray). A Surfbird at Toleak Point, *Jefferson* 2 Jun (R. Niese) was three weeks tardy if northbound. In Oregon, where Semipalmated Sandpipers are rare before Jul, one was at Tenmile, *Douglas* 17 Jun (D. Farrar). An ad. **Red-necked Stint** at Bottle Beach, *Grays Harbor* 21-22 Jul (ph. C. Hesselein) was Washington's fifth record; all have involved Jun–Aug ads., with four since 2005. An ad. Baird's Sandpiper at N.S.C.B. 11 Jun (KC, DL) was highly unusual, as there are few Jun records for this species in the Region. Although fall tallies of southbound juv. Stilt Sandpipers occasionally number into the hundreds, an ad. at Reardan, *Lincoln* 17 Jul (JI) was more unexpected, as this age class is not found annually in the Region. Far more surprising was an ad. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Crockett Lake, *Island* 20-21 Jul (ph. S. Schmidt, J. Sheldorn), just the third ad. ever for Washington. An ad. female Ruff at Florence, *Lane* 6 Jun (D. Pettey) made the season's only report. For the first time since 2009, Wilson's Phalaropes bred at N.S.C.B. At least three nests were active on 28 Jun, and 3 juvs. and one active nest were observed 12 Jul (TR); high water inundated the nesting area 2010–2012, and willows now appear to be supplanting the habitat. *Washington*, one of the few W.V. counties where Wilson's had not bred previously, recorded its first nestings: on 24 Jul, 2 juvs. were at Jackson Bottoms Wetland in Hillsboro (S. Nord, ph. S. Carpenter), and another juv. was at Tualatin River N.W.R. (S. Mauvais). By 23 Jul, 200,000 Wilson's and 30,000 Red-necked Phalaropes had gathered at Lake Abert (AH, SA For those impatiently awaiting the onset of southbound shorebird migration, Dungeness Bay, *Clallam* was the place to be in Jun. Many species of waders rarely detected in the P.T. or anywhere in the Region before Jul put in appearances. In addition to the Pacific Golden-Plover noted above, the following species were detected. A Long-billed Curlew, rare at any season in the P.T., was there 11 Jun (M. Barry); a presumed northbound Bar-tailed Godwit inhabited the bay 2-20 Jun (CW, RS); up to 4 Marbled Godwits, generally rare in the P.T., were there 17-20 Jun (BW, C. Borre); a Willet, rare at any time in the P.T. and particularly so before Jul, was there 26-29 Jun (D. Van Horn); a Ruddy Turnstone stopped in on 7 Jun (RM); up to 6 Red Knots, which are rare during summer in the P.T., were there 2-5 Jun (CW, RS), and 2 more were recorded 16-20 Jun (S. Robinson). A Semipalmated Sandpiper there 2-5 Jun (CW, RS) was about two weeks behind schedule if still northbound. Rare but annual in the P.T. during summer,14 Dunlins there 2 Jun (CW, RS) made an exceptional count. Finally, a female Wilson's Phalarope found 17 Jun (ph. BW) was joined by a male 18-20 Jun (*fide* D. Van Horn). Between 1975 and 2001, Wilson's Phalaropes did not breed in w. Washington, but during the last decade, breeding or likely breeding has been noted at two or three locations. Above-average coverage of Dungeness Bay was the result of the extended stay of the Bar-tailed Godwit. Additionally, improved reporting from local observers bolstered this hearty roster of shorebirds.

CH, ES); peak tallies there normally are made during mid-Aug.

While 11 Franklin's Gulls 2-30 Jun was typical for e. Washington, 5 on the westside 4 Jun–28 Jul, where they are not annual in summer, was above normal. Herring Gulls rarely linger into Jun in the Region; notable singles were at Dungeness Bay, *Clallam* 2 Jun (RS, CW), W.W.R.D. 2 Jun (M&MLD), and off *Coos* 8 Jun (PL). Adding to three prior nestings at Ridgefield (2001, 2002, and 2008), a pair of Black Terns attended a nest with one chick there through 7 Jul (RH); these are w. Washington's only breeding records. On 1 Jun, an ad. Arctic Tern was at Dungeness Spit, *Clallam* (W. Westercamp); although this species bred at this site for several years, there have been no nesting attempts since 2010. Far less expected was the ad. **Arctic Tern** that showed up at Malheur 19 Jun (ph. N. Banet); this bird, plus 2 at Philomath in Jun 2012, are Oregon's only inland summer records. Three Forster's Terns dropped in at Plat Island Reservoir, *Douglas* 1 Jun (RN, MH); though barely annual on the westside during summer, early Jun detections are the norm. A Parasitic Jaeger graced Hein Bank, *Island* 16 Jul (I. Reiff); any jaeger is rare in the P.T. prior to Aug. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger flying southbound over cen. Puget Sound near Bainbridge Island, *Kitsap* 8 Jun (BW) provided the first Jun record for the P.T.; there are three previous Jun records for e. Washington and one May record for the P.T. from 1991.

Eight Scripps's Murrelets over Grays Canyon off *Grays Harbor* 29 Jun (RS, BL) is Washington's highest count since 18 were tallied there on 8 Oct 1978. An Ancient Murrelet at the mouth of Tillamook Bay 6 Jul (D. Leal) was unusual; most of Oregon inshore reports come during late fall. A Cassin's Auklet at Bainbridge Island, *Kitsap* 28 Jul (ph. B. Jennings, ph. BW) provided a rare summer record for the cen. Puget Sound. Cassin's were once considered rare during summer e. of Cape Flattery, *Clallam*, but in recent years they have proven to be somewhat regular in the Strait of Juan de Fuca in Jun/Jul. A Horned Puffin, now detected annually during summer, was near Lopez Island, *San Juan* 12-15 Jul (ph. K. Jones).

A Band-tailed Pigeon in the highlands at Chesaw, *Okanogan* 24 Jun (C. Hynie, S. Aagaard) was well e. of the Cascades and thus noteworthy. A calling Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in the Cascade-Siskiyou N.M. w. of Ashland, *Jackson* 6 Jul (ph. TJ, RN); though presumed extirpated as a breeder in the Region, territorial Jun/Jul birds continue to be detected every few summers. For the second consecutive summer, the Region hosted a **Snowy Owl**, with one lingering near Plaza, *Whitman* through 24 Jun (C. Lundblad); this is Washington's third summer record. Northern Hawk Owls, first confirmed breeding in the Region in 2007, nested again in the n.-cen. Washington Cascades. An ad. with 5 fledglings 30 Jun were on Tiffany Mountain, *Okanogan* 30 Jun (L. Victor). A Black Swift, normally rare e. of the Columbia River, visited W. T. Wooton Wildlife Area, *Columbia* 19 Jun (MD). Although the spring migration of Black Swifts along Oregon's outer coast normally extends well into Jun, 5 at Rockaway, *Tillamook* 14 Jul were puzzling, as there are no known nesting sites nearby, and these birds did not appear to be migrating (D. Mandell).

Single Anna's Hummingbirds at Dixie 27 Jun (*fide* MLD) and College Place 30 Jul (MLD) were the first summer detections for *Walla Walla* and provided further evidence of this species' continuing range expansion in the Region. Washington's ninth **Costa's Hummingbird** remained at Lyle, *Klickitat* through the summer season (ph. J. Rasmussen), providing the first summer record for Washington; most records are from May. A male **Rufous Hummingbird x Black-chinned Hummingbird hybrid** at Elk Mountain, *Spokane* 13-28 Jul (ph. M. Woodruff, R. Woodruff) provided Washington's second and the Region's third record of this cross; the bird was also present 27-30 Jun 2012 as well but went unidentified. Remarkably, the Region's first **Calliope Hummingbird x Black-chinned Hummingbird hybrid** visited the same location 30 Jul (ph. M. Woodruff, R. Woodruff). A Calliope Hummingbird on Saddle Mountain, *Clatsop* 6 Jul (L. Cain) adds to a string of spring/summer reports from this monadnock in Oregon's Coast Range, far removed from the nearest known breeding sites in the Cascades. A Red-breasted Sapsucker continued at Hood Park, *Walla Walla* through 2 Jun (M&MLD), and another was at Mazama, *Okanogan* 24 Jun (S. Bondi); the eastward expansion of Red-breasted in both states appears to be broadening the zone of contact and increasing this species' hybridization with Red-naped (S. Billerman).

PASSERINES

Least Flycatchers, now noted annually in w. Washington, included 2 at Corkindale, *Skagit* 21-8 Jun (RM) and *Jefferson*'s first at Anderson Lake S.P 14-24 Jun (J. Baier, ph. DW). This species is now firmly established in the riparian belts across e. Washington, with 30+ detections this summer. For the first time in many years, no territorial Leasts were reported in Oregon. In Washington, Black Phoebes returned to locales where they nested in 2012; successful breeding occurred at two Ridgefield sites, but there was no nesting evidence at Lacey, *Thurston*. Washington's twelfth Eastern Phoebe continued through 8 Jun at Calispell Lake, *Pend Orielle* (ph. JI); another, found during spring, persisted at Dixonville, *Douglas* until 18 Jun (MH). Single Ash-throated Flycatchers at Portland 13 Jun (S. Finnegan) and S.R.D. 19 Jun (AH, ES) were the only westside reports away from breeding areas in sw. Oregon. Six Western Kingbirds at Hobuck Beach, *Clallam* 1 Jun (RS, CW) was a goodly coastal count for Washington. Though modest numbers of northbound Westerns continue moving through w. Washington into Jun, one still at Quileute River Bottom, *Clallam* 20 Jul (M. Charest) was remarkable for midsummer. Migrant Eastern Kingbirds in w. Washington included a rare coastal bird at Lake Ozette, *Clallam* 1 Jun (RS, CW). Washington's twelfth **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** visited Leadbetter Point, *Pacific* 17 Jun (ph. D. Froelich); most Regional records have been May–early Jul.

A **Philadelphia Vireo** at Malheur 5 Jun (†J. Meredith, ph. J. Gilligan) would be Oregon's

The remote mountains in southeastern Oregon almost always produce interesting discoveries when they are explored by birders. This Gray-headed Junco was one of at least five observed at Ten Cent Meadow in the Pueblo Mountains, Harney County 14 June 2013. The fact that this bird is carrying food suggests local breeding. ***Photograph by Adrian Hinkle.***

fifth. A Rock Wren, rare but annual w. of the cascades, was found dead at Leadbetter Point, *Pacific* 17 Jun (D. Froelich); summer coastal records are few. A Pacific Wren at Washtucna, *Adams* 8 Jun (M&MLD) was rare away from their normal coniferous haunts. Veeries again occupied their only westside breeding location near County Line Ponds, *Whatcom/Skagit,* with up to 2 there 9-23 Jun (RM, J. Gunn). Four Gray Catbirds at Harney oases 4-16 Jun were expected, but 3 on the westside, where not annual, was surprising; one visited Marblemount, *Whatcom* 9 Jun (RM), *San Juan*'s first graced Sucia Island 12-13 Jun (L. Givler), and another sang persistently at N.S.C.B. 5-13 Jul (TR). For the third consecutive summer, w. Washington hosted a Sage Thrasher; this one, at Neah Bay, *Clallam* 2 Jun (ph. RS, CW), was that state's seventh coastal record. Brown Thrashers at Wallowa Lake, *Wallowa* 6 Jun (ph. K. Bratcher, A. Humphries) and Newport 12 Jun (C. Philo) add to more than 50 records for the Region, which now averages about two per summer. A **California Thrasher** at Cascade-Siskiyou N.M., *Jackson* 20 Jul is the Region's third (ph. TJ); all have come from the Rogue River watershed. Aside from occasional birds summering in n. Washington, Bohemian Waxwings are exceptionally rare in the Region Jun–Jul, so one in the se. corner of Oregon at Frenchglen, *Harney* 17 Jun (†M. Greenway) was completely unexpected.

A **Lapland Longspur** at Point Roberts, *Whatcom* 16-17 Jun (ph. R. Swanston) provided just the eighth summer record for the Region; Washington has only two other Jun–Jul records. A male **McCown's Longspur** at Seattle 8 Jun (†M. Wiles, †H. Noble, H. Gilbert) supplied a long overdue first for Washington. The *Harney* oases average 1-2 northbound Ovenbirds per year May–Jun; this season's bird was at Malheur 6 Jun (AC). A singing male w. of Falls City, *Polk* 17 Jun (*fide* WDR) was more surprising, as Ovenbirds are less than annual on the westside. Similarly, a Northern Waterthrush sw. of Drain, *Douglas* 5 Jun (MH) was a rare northbound stray to w. Oregon. Black-and-white Warblers appeared on both sides of the Cascades in Oregon, with a female at Malheur 1 Jun (AC) and a male near Jefferson, *Marion* 16 Jun (T. Hicks). A Tennessee Warbler was at Malheur, where annual, 3 Jun (ph. J. Blowers, AC), whereas another at Washtucna, *Adams* 19 Jul (ph. L.A. Plumb) made just the second summer record for Washington, where most of the 30+ accepted records have occurred mid-Aug–Sep. Washington's fifth **Hooded Warbler** sang incessantly along Cape Horn Trail, *Skamania* 4 Jul+ (D. Hayden, S. Hayden, m.ob.); prior records include two from Jun and two from Dec. A maximum of 6 American Redstarts was detected at their isolated colony at County Line Ponds, *Whatcom* 19 Jun (RM, CW, E. Houston). Oregon's only redstart passed through Malheur 3 Jun (AC). A Cape May Warbler at Malheur 6 Jun (J. Carlson, B. Carlson, AM, TM) was Oregon's fifteenth, nearly half of which involve May–Jun detections in *Harney*. Three Northern Parulas, all in e. Oregon 6-27 Jun, was a typical seasonal showing. Washington's twenty-third Magnolia Warbler was at Ginkgo S.P., *Kittitas* 5 Jun (K. Hughes, G. Hughes, ph. K. Black, ph. M. Clarke); most records are from early Sep–early Oct, with only four from summer. A Bay-breasted Warbler at Fields 14 Jun (AH) was Oregon's eleventh but just the third there since 1990. A Chestnut-sided Warbler, Washington's twenty-sixth, visited Ritzville, *Adams* 2 Jun (†R. Koppendrayer); all but a handful of records are from Jun. Although annual in fall, a male **Blackpoll Warbler** at Malheur 5 Jun (AC) was the first Jun–Jul detection in the Region in nearly two decades. Nearly as rare was the **Palm Warbler** that enlivened Big Summit Prairie, *Crook* 6 Jul (K. Owen); this species is far less expected e. of Cascades, and there are exceedingly few midsummer records anywhere in the Region. A singing male **Canada Warbler** near Sisters, *Deschutes* 11-12 Jun (D. Arendt, R. Robb, m.ob.) furnished Oregon's eighth but just the second Jun–Jul report. Breeding Yellow-breasted Chats have increased in w. Washington over the past five years, but this summer none was detected n. of *Clark*, where 10+ were noted at three locations.

A Clay-colored Sparrow at Hobuck Beach, *Clallam* 17-23 Jun (ph. M. Barry) provided the seventh summer record for w. Washington. An intriguing singing male Clay-colored was near Enterprise, *Wallowa* 25 Jun (TM, AM); this species breeds in ne. Washington but has not been found nesting in Oregon. Six westside Brewer's Sparrows included one at Wa'atch Valley, *Clallam* 1 Jun (RS, CW), which was the eighth in summer for the w. Washington lowlands, plus 5 birds in Jul from four locations in the Willamette Valley. Vesper Sparrows away from their few w. Washington breeding locations included a rare coastal stray at Lake Ozette, *Clallam* 30 Jun (ph. V. Lucas) and another near Buckley, *Pierce* 8 Jul (CW). Following the unprecedented incursion of Black-throated Sparrows into e. Washington a year ago, only the traditional site near Vantage, *Kittitas* hosted birds this summer; a maximum of 4 was counted there 7 Jun (S. Pink, A. M. Wood). Western Washington's sixth Jun–Jul Lark Sparrow graced Ridgefield 22 Jun (ph. C. Ledford, ph. W. Clemons). Two Grasshopper Sparrows at S.R.D. 22 Jul (AH, CH, ES) and another at Ankeny N.W.R. 22 Jul (R. Gerig) were at W.V. sites where they are not normally encountered. Although **Thick-billed Fox Sparrows** breed well n. in the Oregon Cascades, a pair at Leech Lake, *Yakima* 6-28 Jul (†BT, ph. S. Mills) made just the fourth credible record for Washington, where this taxon's status is unclear (see *N.A.B.* 57: 536-539). Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** at Corkindale 1 Jun (RM) and Diablo, *Whatcom* 2 Jun (RM) provided the first down-slope summer records for w. Washington; migrant Lincoln's normally vacate the lowlands by early May. A **White-throated Sparrow** paired with a *pugetensis* White-crowned Sparrow at Goodell Creek, *Whatcom* 19 Jul (ph. M. Clarke) was Washington's sixth in summer and the first to attempt breeding. Golden-crowned Sparrow is now detected annually into early Jun; this season's bird lingered at Clinton, *Island* 1-2 Jun (G. Helecker). No fewer than 5 **Gray-headed Juncos** and at least one Oregon x Gray-headed Junco cross were encountered above 2000 m at Ten Cent Meadow, in Oregon's Pueblo Mountains, *Harney* 14 Jun (ph. AH, ph. CH); prior reports of this subspecies, which also included evidence of breeding, have come from the neighboring Oregon Canyon Mountains and Trout Creek Mountains in extreme se. Oregon. The higher elevations in these remote ranges are mostly accessible only by foot or horseback.

Just 6 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, about half the recent seasonal norm, were noted 8 Jun–4 Jul; surprisingly, all were w. of the Cascades. In *Multnomah*, where Lazuli Buntings were at best locally uncommon 30 years ago, an astounding 61 were counted at S.R.D. 19 Jun (AH, ES); this is surely a single site record for the Willamette Valley. Presumed returning Indigo Bunting x Lazuli Buntings, a cross that is now annual in the Region, were at Eugene's Alton Baker Park 1-5 Jun (D. & A. Heyerly) and near Cougar, *Cowlitz* 6-7 Jul (MH, ph. RM); the Eugene bird was back for the second year, and the one at Cougar has now been present during at least three of the past four nesting seasons. Four additional Indigos were detected in

Oregon 21 Jun–9 Jul. A **Dickcissel** at F.R.R. 2 Jul (ph. T. Meinzen) was just the third Jun–Jul bird for Oregon, where most of the 15 antecedent records have come Nov–Mar. Single Tricolored Blackbirds at Sprague Lake, *Lincoln* 8 Jun (C. Lundblad) and Toppenish, *Yakima* 20 Jun (E. Heisey) were spring holdovers at locales where they have not bred. Similarly, a male Tricolored inhabited F.R.R. 8 Jul+ (H. Herlyn, m.ob.), and 2 males were at Fernhill Wetlands 24 Jul+ (R. Hoyer, ph. S. Nord); the latter was a first for heavily birded *Washington*. Tricolored Blackbirds first appeared in s.-cen. Washington in 2003, and known breeding colonies exist in *Whitman* and *Grant*. A flock of 30 Tricoloreds near Othello, *Adams* 19 Jun (ph. BW) included a number of recent fledglings, presumed to have hatched locally; reed marshes on nearby private lands seem to offer suitable nesting habitat. The count of 50 Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Ridgefield 28 Jul (M. Sullivan) provided a record w. Washington summer high count and was probably indicative of good breeding success there. Yellow-headeds are rare on the outer coast, so a male at Astoria 28 Jun (E. Cain) was noteworthy. A **Great-tailed Grackle** at Bay Center, *Pacific* 24 Jun was likely the same ad. male located in late May about 28 km away at Naselle, *Pacific*; there are only nine records for Washington. As is now typical, several Great-taileds were noted in *Harney* in early Jun. More surprisingly, 5 were detected 1 Jun–4 Jul in the W.V., where this species is still barely annual. The season's lone Baltimore Oriole was along Pike Creek, *Harney* 6 Jun (S. Lay). A singing Pine Grosbeak on Bonney Butte, *Hood River* 16 Jun (B. Archer) was particular unusual during summer in the Oregon Cascades, where this species is rare at any season. Lesser Goldfinches continue to press eastward in their ongoing range expansion, as evidenced by a nest found at La Grande 5 Jun (W. Morton, *fide* TB); as recently as 2002, this species had never been recorded in *Union*, and this was the first confirmed breeding effort. A **Lawrence's Goldfinch** at Klamath Falls 12 Jun (†M. Sargent) would be about the eighth for Oregon.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Gary Bletsch, Marv Breece, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Jim Danzenbaker, Mike Denny, MerryLynn Denny, Bob Flores, George Gerdts, **Greg Gillson** (*Washington*, thebirdguide pelagics), Randy Hill, Adrian Hinkle, Christopher Hinkle, Matt Hunter, Jon Isacoff, **Stuart Johnston** (*Hood River, Klickitat, Wasco*), Tim Johnston, Randy Knapp, Bruce Labar, Dave Lauten, Paul Lehman, Allison Mickel, Tom Mickel, Russ Namitz, **Harry Nehls** (Oregon), Vic Nelson, **Mike Patterson** (*Clatsop*), W. Douglas Robinson, **Tim Rodenkirk** (*Coos, Curry*), Em Scattaregia, Ryan Shaw, Bill Shelmerdine, Andy Stepniewski, John Sullivan, **Dave Trochlell** (*Union, Wallowa*), Bill Tweit, Dan Waggoner, **Charlie Wright** (eBird).

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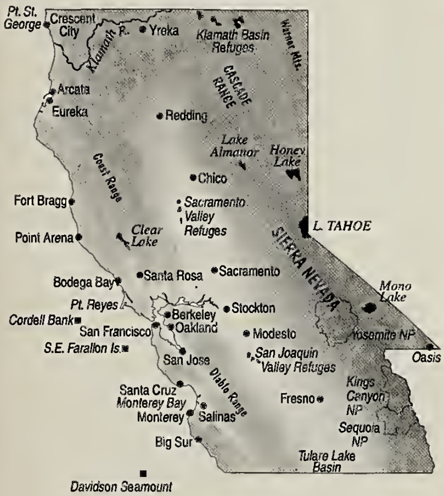

Michael M. Rogers
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A typical dry summer produced a few record-warm days in late June, but the weather was otherwise unremarkable. Most seabirds on the Farallones experienced high reproductive success, with cormorants and gulls achieving their highest productivity since 2007. It was an outstanding season for shorebirds, with several Regional rarities and surprising June records of several more regular species. Top highlights included the continuing Eastern Whip-poor-will and Inca Dove.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.R.P. (Cosumnes River Preserve, *Sacramento*); C.V. (Central Valley); F.I. (Southeast Farallon Island, *San Francisco*); H.R.S. (Hayward R.S., *Alameda*); Point Blue (Point Blue Conservation Science); S.F. (San Francisco, not State Forest). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation of C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P. O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, California 91933.

WATERFOWL

Inland Brant included the second for *Tulare*, at the Tulare W.T.P. 13-26 Jul (DaF, ph. SDS), *Mendocino*'s first inland, at the Ukiah W.T.P. 2 Jun (CEV), and 7 continuing near Brooks Island, *Contra Costa* though the period (ES). A Tundra Swan summered at Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary, *Sutter* 7 Jun+ (Ginny Marshall); 7 unidentified northbound swans 150 m off the Pajaro River mouth, *Santa Cruz* 14 Jun (ph. NLv) were hard to explain. An unseasonal male Eurasian Wigeon was found along the Mountain View, *Santa Clara* bayside 1 Jun (MJM, Lea Crisp). A brood of American Wigeon was at Crowley Lake, *Mono* 19 Jul, where a brood was found last year 16 Aug 2012 (both PJM); this is one of the few somewhat regular breeding locations away from the northeastern corner of the state. Lesser Scaup broods were found at H.R.S. 8 Jul (RJR) and Sunnyvale, *Santa Clara* 27 Jul (WGB), both sites of regular recent breeding. Bufflehead broods were found at lakes in Lassen Volcanic N.P., the only known breeding location in *Shasta*, 7 Jun (Frank & Darliss Sanderson) and 8 Jun (Barb Peck); another brood at Loch Leven Lake 12 Jul (Chris Lynch) supplied the first breeding confirmation for *Placer*. Six widely scattered Common Goldeneyes were more than expected. A female Hooded Merganser with 2 young at Willits W.T.P. 2 Jun (Mike Curry) provided *Mendocino*'s first breeding record. Other broods were found at C.R.P. 21 May–16 Jun (AEn, JTr) and at Antelope Lake, *Plumas* 2-11 Jun (EP, DPA, David Hamilton).

GREBES THROUGH PELICANS

An unseasonal Horned Grebe was at Eagle Lake, *Lassen* 19 Jun (Stephen Long). The only Manx Shearwater was off *San Mateo* 21 Jul (Alvaro's

Adventures). The long-staying Northern Gannet at F.I. was seen throughout the period (Point Blue). As it did last year, the bird displayed frequently, and at times it was seen arranging nesting material. It was even observed brooding a Brandt's Cormorant chick on one occasion. Brown Pelicans did not stage a strong inland invasion as they did last summer, but die-offs were still noted around Monterey Bay, *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz*, and the high count of 47 at F.I. 9 Jul (Point Blue) was far below average for the summer period.

SA As noted last season, an unprecedented number of spring Swainson's Hawks led to the first confirmed breeding in *Santa Clara* since at least 1894. A single juv. fledged from the nest along Coyote Creek in s. San Jose 7 Aug (RPh). Equally remarkable was *San Benito*'s first known nest near Hollister, which produced a single fledgling by 4 Aug (ph. Steven Johnson, DLSh). Breeding is also now occurring in s. *Sonoma*, where a nest produced 3 fledglings by 6 Jul last year (ph. George Eade); three nests were found there again this year, and two produced fledged young by 19 Jul (George Eade). Three successful nests were located this summer in *Napa* (MBe, *fide* JGE), where breeding has occurred since at least 2005. This recent expansion of Swainson's Hawks into coastal areas is likely the result of the gradual recovery of the species' populations in its core breeding range, particularly the C.V., where numbers of breeders continue to increase. Time will tell whether breeding in such coastal areas will continue to increase and expand. Groups of up to 35 birds following farm machinery at Tubbs Island, *Sonoma* 26 Jun into Jul (ph. George Eade, Brian Smucker) indicate increased use of more coastal areas even by non-breeders.

BITTERNS THROUGH CRANES

A Least Bittern at Rodman Slough C.P., *Lake* 14-19 Jul (JRW, GEC) was the only one reported. An ad. **Glossy Ibis** at the Yolo Basin W.A. 28-31 Jul (TEa, ph. m.ob.) was *Yolo*'s third and the sixth for the Region. White-faced Ibis were reported from seven coastal counties throughout the summer, but we received no reports of coastal Cattle Egrets. The Hunter's Point shipyard Ospreys fledged 2 young by summer's end (m.ob.), marking the second consecutive year of successful nesting in *S.F.* Bald Eagle nests included one at Crystal Springs Reservoir with a nearly fledged young bird 26 Jun (PJM, Tim Sullivan), the first successful breeding in *San Mateo* since 1915. On the heels of the first urban breeding by Cooper's Hawks in *Santa Cruz* this spring, a remarkable two additional nests and 6+ broods of recently fledged young were found in the county's urban areas this summer (*fide* DLSu). Such urban breeding has been well established for over a decade in nearby *Santa Clara* and *Alameda* counties and in the C.V. The *Sonoma* **Common Black-Hawk** was seen incubating near Sebastopol 3-6 Jun (ph. Stan Moore), but the nesting attempt failed to produce young and the nest was abandoned within two weeks. A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen bringing food to the nest vicinity but could not be confirmed as a mate.

Yellow Rails (up to 3) were heard for the third year in a row near Eagle Lake, *Lassen* 19 Jun–8 Jul (KAb, m.ob.). Black Rails were found along Alviso and Artesian sloughs in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 6 Jun–17 Jul (PDu, m.ob.), where summer records are unprecedented. Further investigation turned up reports of numerous Black Rails in nearby Triangle Marsh along Coyote Slough, *Santa Clara* in 2012, first heard during Clapper Rail surveys for the Invasive Spartina Project, and at Dumbarton Marsh and along Old Alameda Creek in Union City in adjacent *Alameda* in 2013. The latter site has apparently been occupied for several years (*fide* Jen McBroom). A Common Gallinule at Kyburz Flat 11 Jul (FrO, KZu, LPt) was apparently the first for *Sierra*. An ad. Sandhill Crane near Fort Dick, *Del Norte* 6 Jun (LuB) was unusual for both the summer date and the location. The *Mono* Sandhill Cranes reported last season at Bridgeport Reservoir dwindled from 5 birds to 2 by the end of summer (PJM, Robert McKernan).

SA Paul Lehman continued his noteworthy observations from commercial cruise ships between S.F. and Alaska, with three round-trip cruises through the Region. The highlight was verification that the good numbers of Hawaiian/Galapagos Petrels reported last season continued through the summer. Following one off *Humboldt* 10 Jul, he observed 6 off *Humboldt* and singles off *Del Norte* and *Mendocino* 18 Jul, the same day he saw 3 in Oregon waters (†PEL et al.). Of the 8 California birds seen on 18 Jul, 4 were seen well enough to be documented as Hawaiian Petrel, as opposed to Galapagos Petrel, which has not been recorded in California waters (†PEL). Two 64 km ssw. of Punta Gorda, *Humboldt* on 18 Jul provided the first state record of multiple individuals together. Coupled with satellite telemetry studies showing that Hawaiian Petrels tagged in Hawaii regularly travel eastward to waters within 320 km of the California and s. Oregon coastlines, the high numbers reported from recent commercial cruises, other pelagic birding trips, and research cruises suggest that Hawaiian Petrel is a regular component of the offshore West Coast avifauna. Murphy's Petrel is most frequently recorded off California in spring, so 5 off *Humboldt* and *Del Norte* 10 Jul (†PEL et al.) were less expected. This was an "off" year for Cook's Petrel, as the only one reported was 130 km w. of Point St. George, *Del Norte* 30 Jul (PEL et al.).

SHOREBIRDS

An ad. American Golden-Plover was photographed at Yolo Bypass W.A., *Yolo* 21 Jul (ph. KSw et al.). Single Solitary Sandpipers, all inland, were reported in *San Joaquin*, *Yolo*, and *Tulare* 20-26 Jul (DGY, MP, ph. SDS). A Long-billed Curlew over Clear Lake 3 Jul (FHa et al.) was, remarkably, only the fifth (second in summer) for *Lake*. *Mono*'s first Hudsonian Godwit graced Mono Lake 5-6 Jun (DHo, ph. Chris Allen, KNN). Detailed study of the photographs of this second-calendar-year female suggested that it might be the same bird seen in southern California in late May. An ad. Bar-tailed Godwit was in Crescent City, *Del Norte* 17 Jun (LuB, ADB, Sky Lloyd, JLx). *Santa Cruz* hosted very-rare-in-Jun rocky shorebirds, with a Black Turnstone 2 Jun (JGa, AMR), Surfbird 12-22 Jun (2 birds; JGa, AMR, NLv), and Ruddy Turnstone 14 Jun (JGa, AMR, NLv). The Region's fourteenth and *Kings*'s first Little Stint was an ad. at Corcoran 27-30 Jul (ph. MSy, m.ob.); all but five of the previous records have been of fall ads. between 6 Jul and 27 Aug. Three ad. White-rumped Sandpipers near Fort Dick, *Del Norte* 10-13 Jun (LuB, ph. ADB, m.ob.) provided the first record for northwestern California, the twelfth for the Region, and the high count for the state. Two ad. Baird's Sandpipers at Mono Lake, *Mono* 7 Jul (KNN) were early. An ad. Pectoral Sandpiper near Fort Dick 12 Jun (RbF, mob.) was thought to be the first Jun record for *Del Norte*. Among a surprising total of 10 Dunlin in four counties was *Mendocino*'s first in summer at the Ukiah W.T.P. 7 Jul (CEV). The only Stilt Sandpiper reported was an ad. at Shollenberger Park, *Sonoma* 10-22 Jul (ScC, ph. Len Blumin, m.ob.). On the heels of *Colusa*'s first breeding record last season, Wilson's Phalaropes were confirmed breeding in *Glenn* for the first time when a male with 2 chicks was found in rice fields west of the Sacramento N.W.R 2 Jul (*fide* Monica Iglecia).

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS

The Region has few onshore records of South Polar Skua, so one on the beach at MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* 5-7 Jun (KHv, ph. RLeV, Linda Perkins) was extremely unusual. The mid-summer status of Long-tailed Jaeger in the Region is unclear, partly owing to the paucity of pelagic trips during that time. On Lehman's cruises, one was 145 km w. of Point St. George, *Del Norte* 10 Jul, and 5 were in waters from *Mendocino* to *Del Norte* 18 Jul (both PEL et al.). A Laughing Gull at MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* 10 Jul (ph. Becky Bowen) was the only one reported and was unusually far north. Five Franklin's Gulls in Sierra Valley, *Plumas* 1 Jun (EP et al.) were likely late northbound migrants. One at the Pajaro River mouth, *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz* 15 Jun (ph. AMR) provided the third Jun record for the latter county. Other singles were at Half Moon Bay S.B., *San Mateo* 6 Jun (MDeF) and MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* 20 Jul (KHv, GEC, J. Chaniot).

Heermann's Gulls nested successfully near Roberts Lake, *Monterey* (†DR), where nesting occurred in 1999-2004. After three active nests were discovered on the roof of a building 3 Apr (BLS, Marshall Iliff, Chris Wood), 17 ads. and 19 downy young several weeks old were observed 14 Jun (DR), and 9 fully-feathered juvs. were present 12 Jul (DR). Based on the numbers of ads. and young observed, DR estimated that up to 15 pairs may have attempted nesting, with 8-10 pairs hatching young. The presence of Heermann's Gulls on this building during the 2011 and 2012 breeding seasons (BLS) indicates that nesting may have at least been attempted here previously. Three Ring-billed Gulls at the Big Sur River mouth 2 Jun (JGa, AMR) were both late and unusual along *Monterey*'s southern coastline. Although California Gulls have attempted breeding at F.I. each year since 2008, this was the first year they succeeded in fledging young. The first hatchlings were observed 5 Jun, and on 25 Jul, 8 fully feathered young were noted (Pete Warzybok, Russ Bradley). During previous years of attempted nesting, Western Gull predation (apparently owing to low abundance of other food sources) was primarily responsible for the lack of California Gull nesting success. This year, other Western Gull food sources were apparently more available, allowing Western Gulls their most productive year since 2007 and reducing predation pressure by Westerns on California Gull nests. Least Terns away from traditional breeding/post-breeding areas included one on Ocean Beach, *S.F.* 23 Jun (Linda Swanson) and a second-year bird at Half Moon Bay S.B., *San Mateo* 29-30 Jul (Cedric Duhalde et al.). Although 4 ads. were at the Sacramento Regional W.T.P., *Sacramento* 28 Jun (ph. CCo, EP, Dell Richards), with one lingering to 29 Jun, the species did not attempt nesting here for the first time in six years. The only coastal Black Tern was at Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin* 9 Jun (BBg). A Common Tern at Bridgeport Reservoir, *Mono* 14 Jun (KH, JsC, Alison Sheehey et al.) was probably a late spring migrant; *Mono* had only two prior spring records. A **Royal Tern** at Doran R.P. 24 Jul (ph. Bill Grummer) provided the first *Sonoma* record and the first well-documented Regional record since 1999. Given this species' historical occurrence in northern California and the regularity of northward post-breeding dispersal by Elegant Terns, it is surprising that Royal Terns do not occur in the Region more often. A Black Skimmer at Clear Lake 3 Jul (ph. FHa, m.ob.) provided a first for *Lake* and the only inland record for the Region away from *Kings*, where the species nested in 1986 and where, this year, one was near Stratford 22-23 Jul (ph. MSy, m.ob.). The only other record away from breeding areas was of one at the Aptos Creek mouth, *Santa Cruz*, 10 Jul (DLSu). A Pigeon Guillemot on a former salt pond in Alviso 28 Jul+ (ph. SCR, ph. MJM, RGJ, m.ob.) was unusually far inside S.F. Bay and provided *Santa Clara*'s first record.

Northern California's first Royal Tern since 1999, at Doran Regional Park 24 July 2013, provided a first Sonoma County record. *Photograph by Rick Lebaudour.*

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A Band-tailed Pigeon at Fort Bidwell, *Modoc* 9 Jun (SCR) was 60+ km northeast of known breeding areas. Our only White-winged Dove visited a feed station in Fort Bragg, *Mendocino* 14 Jun (REH). This species has been recorded in the Region annually in summer since 2008. Prior to that, though, it was almost unknown as a summer visitor. The Region's first **Inca Dove**, discovered last season at a feeder in Tulare, *Tulare*, remained through the period (DaF). Six or 7 Yellow-billed Cuckoos included 3 probable breeders in the interior, one each in *Glenn*, *Butte*, and *Sutter*, and 2 or 3 transients along the coast in *Humboldt*. Common Nighthawks breed south along the coast to *Sonoma*, where they are detected irregularly. A pair was observed this season engaged in courtship flights at the Pygmy Forest in Salt Point S.P. 19 Jun–1 Jul (RAR, BDo, Don Kirker, ESH); this remains the only locality in the county where breeding has been confirmed. Two farther south along the coast, at Arana Gulch, *Santa Cruz* 31 Jul (†DLSu), were unexpected on that date so far from known breeding areas. Also in *Santa Cruz*, the **Eastern Whip-poor-will** discovered last season at Valencia Creek Ranch remained through 19 Jun (*fide* DLSu).

The plight of the Black Swift as a breeder in *Santa Cruz* has been well documented, and there were no reports of birds again this season. Coincidentally, a decline in nesting season reports of Vaux's Swifts in recent years—only three this season—suggest this species may be in trouble in the county as well (DLSu). Reports of 4 Allen's Hummingbirds in three interior counties represented an unprecedented showing. Single ad. males turned up at Clear Lake Riviera, *Lake* 13 Jun (ph. Vicki Miller), e. of Oakdale 28 Jun–2 Jul (ph. JHr, m.ob.; a first for *Stanislaus*), and at Acampo, *San Joaquin* 29 Jun (DGY); an imm. male was also at Acampo 25 Jul (DGY). These reports, along with banding records from northern *Solano* in recent years (*fide* Manfred Kusch), suggest this cryptic species might be more regular in the interior as a post-breeding transient

The few Pigeon Guillemots nesting inside San Francisco Bay rarely stray far from the Golden Gate. This bird, present 28 July 2013 and later (here 3 August) on a former salt pond in Alviso, was unusually far inside the Bay and provided Santa Clara County with its first record. *Photograph by Michael J. Mammoser.*

than the few prior records indicated. Although expected upstream in *El Dorado* at Folsom Lake, a Hairy Woodpecker at Sailor Bar on the American River, *Sacramento* 16 Jul (MkM) was out of place. A Northern Flicker pair tending young in a eucalyptus cavity at Presidio N.P. 26 Jun+ (Steve Phillips, m.ob.) established the first nesting record of this species for *S.F.* in well over a decade. *Del Norte*'s Crested Caracara continued near Fort Dick 8 Jul (Casey Ryan).

Although most recent statistics concerning the imperiled Willow Flycatcher have been dismal, a tally of 16 territories at Chester Meadows, *Plumas* 17 Jun (RDB), representing one of the highest nesting densities of this species in the state, was welcome news. Pacific-slope Flycatcher is unknown as a breeder in *Stanislaus*, so up to 2 birds at Frank Raines R.P. in Del Puerto Canyon 24 Jun–29 Jul (SSa, m.ob.) were notable. A Black Phoebe nest discovered in Adin 1 Jul (JLD et al.) provided the first breeding record of this species for *Modoc*. The first breeding record of Say's Phoebe for the lowlands in the northwestern portion of *Santa Clara* came in the form of an ad. with 2 fledglings at Moffett Field 1 Jun (MMR, Nateri Madavan). Eastern Kingbirds bred again at Blue Lake, *Lassen*, where one bird was attending a partially completed nest 23 Jun (KAb) and incubating 28 Jun (KAb, JLD, DEQ, m.ob.); 2 birds were present on the latter date as well as 10 Jul (Tom Edell) and they were seen feeding a fledged begging juv. 11 Aug (SCR). Two birds were also found on Meiss Lake Rd., 8 km. w. of Macdoel, *Siskiyou* 17 Jun (B&CY), and singles were found at the Rush Creek delta at Mono Lake, *Mono* 4 Jun (KNN), in Sierra Valley, *Sierra* 15 Jun (BWb, ph. Brooke Miller, Lisa Myers), and at Martin Creek, *Lassen* 19 Jun (Paul Taillie).

Our only Red-eyed Vireo was singing along Alderpoint Rd., *Humboldt* 30 Jun (TKz, Danny Franks). Three Black-billed Magpies in Martis Valley 13-21 Jun (WRi) provided the second record for *Placer* and the first since 1875. Birds foraging over a grass fire near Hwy. 99 and Eight Mile Rd. n. of Stockton, *San Joaquin* 4 Jul included 8 Purple Martins (DGY). This was the largest group of martins detected in the county, at least since the species vanished as a breeder there circa 1940s. A mass of 400 Bank Swallows at Chester 25 Jul (RDB) was the largest concentration ever documented in *Plumas*. Two or 3 Mountain Chickadees were at the top of Mount Saint Helena 5 Jun (ESH), establishing *Sonoma* first summer record and one of few overall. A singing Veery at Fort Bidwell, *Modoc* 9 Jun (†ph. v.r. SCR) and another at the Sierra Nevada Field Campus, *Sierra* 8-21 Jul (Marsha Feinland, David Lukas, †ph. v.r. AMR, m.ob.) furnished first county records (p.a.). A Varied Thrush at Basalt Campground, *Merced* 3 Jun+ (Ralph Baker, ph. KVV) was unexpected so far from known breeding areas.

THRASHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Early June produced all our Gray Catbirds with one at Point Reyes, *Marin* 6 Jun (ph. Mark Forney), *Modoc*'s fourth in New Pine Creek 7 Jun (SCR), and a third along both sides of Putah Creek 9 Jun, providing *Solano*'s first and *Yolo*'s second record (Michael Strom, ph. JCS). Brown Thrashers were along Gazos Creek Rd., *San Mateo* 2 Jun (GrH), in Carman Valley, *Sierra* also on 2 Jun (a likely first for *Sierra*; v.r. Brad Walker), and along Airport Rd., *Mendocino* 30 Jun (ph. David Flaim). Ovenbirds included singles banded on F.I. 5-7 Jun (Point Blue) and at Palomarin, *Marin* 10 Jun (Diana Humple), and singing birds on Point Reyes, *Marin* 5-6 Jun (ph. PBC) and in Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 10 Jun (RAR). A Northern Waterthrush found the last day of spring continued through 17 Jun near Lake Almanor, *Plumas* (RDB, Paul Taillie), and another was at Point Reyes, *Marin* 6 Jun (ph. Mark Forney, Todd Plummer, Everett Clark). A total of 6 Black-and-white Warblers was just over our average of 5. Both our Tennessee Warblers were on F.I. 4-6 and 10-11 Jun (Point Blue). The great majority of our records of Hooded Warblers are of singing males, but this season both our Hooded Warblers were females, one in Lincoln Park, *S.F.* 7 Jun (ASH) and the other north of Lee Vining, *Mono* 8 Jun (RSTh, LBt). We average 12 summer reports for both American Redstart and Northern Parula, making this season's 12 redstarts and 9 parulas typical totals. A Magnolia Warbler at Point Reyes, *Marin* 5-6 June (PP, PBC) was in the expected date range for the species, however, the Magnolia Warbler in Golden Gate Park, *S.F.* 14 Jul (David Freund, m.ob.) may represent our latest summer record. Of our 5 Chestnut-sided Warblers, all were coastal except for one in Adin, *Modoc* 1 Jul (ph. Pat Bacchetti, JLD, m.ob.) that provided *Modoc* its second record. F.I. hosted 3 Blackpoll Warblers: two 3-7 Jun and a third 22-23 Jul (all Point Blue). Another Blackpoll was at Point Reyes, *Marin* 10 Jun (PP). We miss Black-throated Green Warbler most summers, so a singing male at Mono Lake C.P., *Mono* 1 Jun was a treat (Dave Marquart, KNN, m.ob.).

Our only out-of-range Green-tailed Towhee was on Pine Mountain, *Marin* 1 Jun (JGE). All 4 Clay-colored Sparrows were on F.I. 9-17 Jun (Point Blue). A juv. Bell's Sparrow along Grouse Mountain Rd., *Humboldt* 31 Jul–7 Aug (ph. RbF, Doug Happ, ph. Kurt Ongman et al.) provided an intriguing observation for a county with no breeding records for this species. An ad. male Lark Bunting was w. of Garberville, *Humboldt* 21 Jun (†RBS). A male **Hepatic Tanager** on Mount Davidson, *S.F.* 8 Jun (Kati Jackson, ph. Chris Crow) provided the sixth Regional record, the first in summer, and our first since 1979. A Summer Tanager in Golden Gate Park, *S.F.* 9 Jun (Bob Dunn) provided our only report. Totals of 33 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 16 Indigo Buntings were both above our averages (25 and 10, respectively). A Bobolink was at Rodeo Lagoon, *Marin* 1 Jun (David Assman). A female Orchard Oriole was south of Lee Vining, *Mono* 9 Jun (RSTh, LBt). Hooded Orioles continue to expand and consolidate their breeding range in the Region. *Humboldt* hosted Hooded Orioles in Arcata with a male continuing from spring through 4 Jun (Cindy Moyer) and a group (up to 4) 18-27 Jul (RbF, m.ob.). In addition, 2 recently fledged Hooded Orioles visited feeders in Ukiah, *Mendocino* 15 Jul (DAB). An ad. male Baltimore Oriole, still singing into early Jun, continued from spring through 9 Jul at Vasona C.P., *Santa Clara* (Karen Burnson, ViT). A female Baltimore Oriole was at the Big Sur River mouth, *Monterey* 1 Jun (JGa, AMR). It is an exceptional year when we record a single Scott's Oriole in summer, so 4 this season was remarkable. *Mono* recorded its second and third occurrences with 2 birds in Chidago Canyon 7 Jun (ph. Ron & Nancy Overholtz) and another along Parker Lake trail 15 Jun (†Ken Etzel). The other Scott's Oriole was at Point Reyes 12 Jun (†Al Hesla). If one adds the bird found this spring in *Tuolumne*, that gives the Region an unprecedented 5 Scott's Orioles for this spring-summer period. Interestingly, we recorded 4 Scott's Orioles in summer 2003, another year (like this year) in which s. California experienced extreme drought conditions.

Cited observers (county subregional editors in boldface): Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. **Ken Able** (*Lassen*), David P. Arsenault, Alan D. Barron, Leonie Batkin, Bob Battagin, Dave A. Bengston, **Murray Berner** (*Napa*), **William G. Bousman** (*Santa Clara*), Lucas Brug, Ryan D. Burnett, Scott Carey, George E. Chaniot, Josiah Clark, Peter B. Colasanti, **Chris Conard** (*Sacramento*), **Rudy C. Darling** (*Nevada*), **Jeff N. Davis** (*Madera*), Malia DeFelice, **Bruce E. Deuel** (*n. C.V. counties*), **Colin P. Dillingham** (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Bill Doyle, Jon L. Dunn, Pete Dunten, Todd Easterla, **Mark W. Eaton** (*San Francisco*), **Ray Ekstrom** (*Siskiyou*), Andrew Engilis, Jules G. Evens, Dane Fagundes, **Rob Fowler** (*Humboldt* and *Del Norte*; RbF), John Garrett, **Steve Gerow** (*Santa Cruz*), **Steve A. Glover** (*Contra Costa*), Keith Hansen, **John Harris** (*Stanislaus*), Garth Harwood, Karen Havlena, Floyd Hayes, Alan S. Hopkins, Debbie House, Richard E. Hubacek, Eugene S. Hunn, **John E. Hunter**

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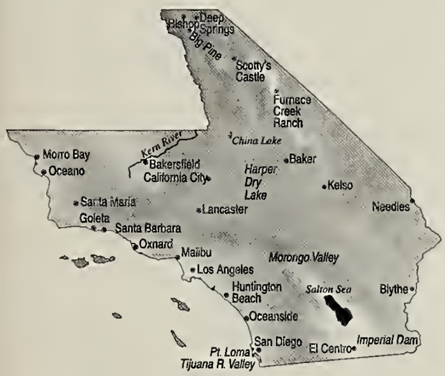

Guy McCaskie
Kimball L. Garrett

A typically dry summer followed a rainy season far drier than average; many creeks and ponds dried completely, and chaparral and desert scrub habitats were clearly drought-stressed. Several notable Asian shorebirds were found in July, southbound birds that complemented a northbound White-rumped Sandpiper in mid-June. An inland, summering Arctic Loon in eastern Los Angeles County was a surprise, as was a late spring vagrant Dusky-capped Flycatcher near San Diego.

Abbreviations: B.S. (Butterbredt Spring at the s. end of the Sierra Nevada above Cantil, e. *Kern*); C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. *Kern*); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); P.M.N.A.S. (Point Mugu Naval Air Station, *Ventura*); P.P. (Piute Ponds on Edwards A.F.B., ne. *Los Angeles*); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*); V.A.F.B. (Vandenberg A.F.B., nw. *Santa Barbara*); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve near Point Mugu Naval Air Station, *Ventura*). Museum collections abbreviated in the text are: SDNHM (San Diego Natural History Museum), WFVZ (Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology). Because most rarities in s. California are seen by multiple observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and/or identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (C.B.R.C.) review list (see <www.californiabirds.org>) is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

WATERFOWL THROUGH PELICANS

A Harlequin Duck at Estero Bluffs S.P. 18 Jun–31 Jul (TME) was likely the same bird present each summer since 2008. A Surf Scoter at N.E.S.S. 15 Jul (CMcG), along with a White-winged Scoter inland at S.E.S.S. 1 Jun (JSt) and another at N.E.S.S. 29 Jun (CMcG), were inland. A Hooded Merganser at Apollo Park in Lancaster, *Los Angeles* during Jun and Jul (WM, JBi) provides one of a very few records for summer in the Region. The presence of 2 ad. female Common Mergansers with 8 ducklings below the dam on Piru Creek 8 Jun (DPe) establishes one of only a few successful nesting records in *Ventura;* the presence of a female with 9 ducklings on the San Gabriel Reservoir 10 Jul (BSm) establishes the first breeding record for *Los Angeles*.

An **Arctic Loon** on Puddingstone Reservoir, San Dimas, *Los Angeles* 31 May–28 Sep (RH) is the first to be found inland in California. The species is a casual stray along the coast to as far s. as *Orange*. A Common Loon at S.E.S.S. 13 Jul (AJS) provides one of a very few summer records for the Salton Sea. A Horned Grebe at Bolsa Chica, *Orange* during Jun and Jul (DRW) is one of fewer than six known to have summered in Southern California. A recently dead Laysan Albatross was found in the Split Mountain area of Anza Borrego Desert S.P., *San Diego* 26 Jun (SB; *SDNHM); there are eight previous records from the desert region of se. California, the Salton Sink, and extreme w. Arizona. A Black-footed Albatross off *Santa Barbara* 8 Jul (MC) provides one of a very few records in the Santa Barbara Channel. A Buller's Shearwater 26 km w. of Point Loma, *San Diego* 16 Jun (MS) was unusually early. A Manx Shearwater was photographed 3.33 km nw. of Santa Rosa Island 23 Jul (JBa). Numbers of Black-vented Shearwaters in the coastal waters increased rapidly after the earliest was seen off Point Loma 16 Jun (CAM), suggesting nesting failures. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel at Point La Jolla, *San Diego* 28 Jul (DDiT) is the first ever recorded in Jul so far south. Fourteen Ashy Storm-Petrels off San Diego 28 Jul (PEL) is the highest number ever recorded in *San Diego* waters.

The only Wood Storks were up to 20 at S.E.S.S. 14 Jun–16 Jul (GMcC). A young Masked/Nazca Booby was at Point La Jolla 18-19 Jun (PEL, BLC), and the remains of another were recovered at McGrath State Beach, *Ventura* 23 Jul (AF; *WFVZ); criteria for identifying imms. of these two species in the field have yet to be determined. A Blue-footed Booby was well photographed off Dana Point, *Orange* 13 Jul (JKP). Four Brown Boobies were reported in *San Diego* waters during Jun and Jul (DPo, JMcM, MS), and single birds were se. of Anacapa Island 21 Jul (JBa), 11 km nnw. of Santa Rosa Island 2 Jul (JBa), and on Santa Barbara Island 6 May (JH). Numbers of Neotropic Cormorants continue to increase at the Salton Sink, as indicated by up to 6 at Fig Lagoon near Seeley, *Imperial*, up to 6 at the Alamo River Wetlands near Brawley, *Imperial*, about 20 along the s. shore of the Salton Sea, and one at the nw. corner of the Salton Sea during Jun and Jul (GMcC, CAM). A pair of Pelagic Cormorants attending a nest at Wilson Cove on San Clemente Island 17 May+

This Arctic Loon, present on Puddingstone Reservoir in San Dimas, Los Angeles County 31 May through 28 September (here 2 June) 2013, provides the first record from an inland location in California. *Photograph by Dave Furseth.*

Noteworthy is the fact that this Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (left), photographed on the first day of its 18-20 July 2013 stay on south San Diego Bay, is an adult. Juveniles of this species are found annually each fall in California, but this is only the third adult known in Southern California at this time of the year. *Photograph by Matt Sadowski.*

(HC) provides the first breeding record for the island. Reports of Brown Pelicans well inland included 35 at about 2400 m in the Santa Rosa Mountains, *Riverside* 25 Jun (PU) and 10 at Lake Skinner, *Riverside* 21 Jul (DF).

BITTERNS THROUGH SANDPIPERS

Two recently fledged American Bitterns on Camp Pendleton, *San Diego* 22 Jul (JMcM) were undoubtedly hatched in that area, and three pairs were believed present at the Imperial Irrigation District Wetlands near Niland, *Imperial* through the summer (AK, GMcC), but successful nesting was unfortunately not established. American Bittern is unrecorded nesting at the Salton Sink. The only Reddish Egrets found n. of *San Diego* and *Orange* were one on the Los Angeles River at Vernon 23 Jul (RB) and another at the Santa Ynez River estuary, *Santa Barbara* 12-17 Jul (LL). Two pairs of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Imperial Beach, *San Diego* each fledged 3 young (GMcC), another pair at Mission Bay, *San Diego* fledged 2 young (JP), and up to 7 at P.M.N.A.S. were believed breeding (DPe).

A Cooper's Hawk near El Centro during Jun and Jul (KZK) provides the first record of one remaining through the summer in the Imperial Valley. A Northern Goshawk on Big Pine Mountain, *Santa Barbara* 15 Jun (PAG) was in an area where the species has nested. The only Harris's Hawks reported were a pair that fledged 2 young at Jacumba, *San Diego* in Jul (EGK). At least 16 Swainson's Hawks together at Lake Henshaw, *San Diego* 1 Jun (PU) was a large number for this late in the spring. The only nesting Swainson's reported were two pairs along the e. edge of *San Luis Obispo* (TME, JM); one at Moreno Valley, *Riverside* 20 Jun (JFG), 4 together near Banning, *Riverside* 27 Jun (SRi), and one over Morongo Valley, *San Bernardino* 6 Jul (HBK) all appeared to be wandering nonbreeders. Two Swainson's near Niland, *Imperial* 30 Jun–5 Jul (DM, GMcC) provide the first mid-summer record for the Salton Sink. A Zone-tailed Hawk was on the immediate coast at Camp Pendleton on the unexpected date of 21 Jun (KWe).

A Sora at S.E.S.S. 12 Jul (RuS) was an exceptionally early fall migrant; the earliest known at the Salton Sink was on 8 Jul 2006. A pair of Black Oystercatchers successfully nested on the outer jetty of Dana Point Harbor in Jun and Jul (RMcN, TAB); this species is not known as a breeding bird on the coast s. of *Santa Barbara*. A **Lesser Sand-Plover** on s. San Diego Bay 19-24 Jul (MS) was the first in *San Diego* and only the third in this Region. A Spotted Sandpiper at S.E.S.S. 5 Jul (GMcC) establishes the earliest date for a fall migrant at the Salton Sink. The earliest of the 12 Solitary Sandpipers were singles at P.P. 9 Jul (JSF) and in the Sepulveda Basin, *Los Angeles* 16-19 Jul (DT). A southbound Black Turnstone was inland at S.E.S.S. 16-21 Jul (GMcC, HBK). Two Red Knots, rare inland away from the Salton Sea, were near the Kern N.W.R. 13 Jun (JSe), and 2 were at Owens Lake, *Inyo* 21 Jul (J&DP). A Ruff on the Los Angeles River at Cudahy 18 Jul (RB) was the only one reported. A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** on s. San Diego Bay 18-20 Jul (MS) was only the third ad. recorded in the Region in fall. A Stilt Sandpiper at S.E.S.S. 2 Jun (BM) was a late spring migrant, and the earliest fall migrants were 15 at the same location 13 Jul (JK). Two at P.P. 23 Jul (JSF) and one at Harper Dry Lake, *San Bernardino* 24 Jul (BSi) made the only reports inland away from the Salton Sea, and single birds at Bolsa Chica 21 Jul (BED) and on s. San Diego Bay 17-2 Aug (MS) were on the coast, where rare. A **Red-necked Stint** on the Los Angeles River at Long Beach 16-22 Jul (RB) provides the eighth Regional record. The only Baird's Sandpiper reported was one at Owens Lake 20 Jul (SLS). A **White-rumped Sandpiper**, a casual straggler to California, was at P.P. 17-18 Jun (JSF). A Semipalmated Sandpiper at C.L. 3 Jun (SLS) was a late spring migrant; one on s. San Diego Bay 19 Jun (MS) provides one of fewer than six mid-summer records for California; 2 at Owens Lake and another on Morro Bay 20 Jul (JLD, TME) were the earliest of the 4 fall ads. reported by 31 Jul; and one at C.L. 31 Jul (SLS) was the earliest juv. reported. A Wilson's Snipe at S.E.S.S. 31 Jul (GMcC) establishes the earliest date for a fall migrant at the Salton Sink by five days.

SKUAS THROUGH SKIMMERS

The only South Polar Skua reported was one between Santa Rosa Island and Santa Cruz Island 1 Jul (JBa). An imm. Long-tailed Jaeger at Owens Lake 20-22 Jul (JLD) was unexpected: the species is virtually unknown inland in spring, and the earliest fall migrants are not expected before mid-Aug. Single Common Murres at Point La Jolla 29 Jun (MS) and 25 Jul (PEL) were exceptionally far s. for midsummer. Two Marbled Murrelets near Cambria, *San Luis Obispo* 29-30 Jul (TME) were exceptionally early to be this far south. Single Pigeon Guillemots at Point La Jolla 11, 20, & 25 Jun (BLC, PEL, BJS) were at the s. extreme of this species' range, and a juv. off Point Dume, *Los Angeles* 13-21 Jul (KLG) was well away from the nearest known nesting locations.

A pair of Laughing Gulls attended a nest (that ultimately failed) at Unit 1 of the Salton Sea N.W.R. at S.E.S.S. 5 Jul+ (GMcC), and the first of the post-breeding birds reached the Salton Sea 26 Jun (GMcC). Three late spring migrant Franklin's Gulls were at Owens Lake 12-13 Jun (SLS). Summering Mew Gulls included one near Avila Beach, *San Luis Obispo* 6-19 Jun (JG) and another at Oceanside, *San Diego* from 23 Jun into Oct (JK). A count of 14 Western Gulls at N.E.S.S. 4 Jul (OJ) illustrates the increasing numbers of this gull at the Salton Sea. About 130 pairs of California Gulls nested at S.E.S.S., with moderately high success (KCM). A Herring Gull, most unusual in summer, was at N.E.S.S. 7-16 Jul (CMcG), and another was at S.E.S.S. 14 Jun–31 Jul and later (GMcC).

Fewer Caspian Terns nested at S.E.S.S. this year, with under 500 pairs and poorer fledging success than usual (KCM). Two pairs of Least Terns fledged at least 2 young at S.E.S.S. in Jun (GMcC, KCM), providing the first successful nesting record for the Salton Sink; what was likely 2 of these birds remained in the area through 20 Jul (JSz). Also encouraging were 15 Least Tern pairs in Malibu that attempted to nest (DSC), the first known breeding attempt at this location in several decades. A Common Tern, casual in spring in the ne. part of this Region, was at C.L. 12-14 Jun (SLS). A second-year Arctic Tern at the 9-Mile Bank off San Diego 27 Jul (PEL) was either an early fall migrant or had summered locally. An Elegant Tern 22 km up the Santa Ana River at Anaheim, *Orange* 22 Jun (DRW) was unexpected, as this species does not normally stray inland. A Black Skimmer in the *Riverside* portion of the Prado Basin

SA Ninety Gull-billed Terns were found dead in or near their breeding colony in s. San Diego Bay between 12 and 25 May, and it is suspected that >90% of the San Diego breeding population was lost (Robert T. Patton). This mortality event appears to have been caused by severe intestinal loads of acanthocephalan ("thorny-headed worm") parasites and seems to have affected only this species. Presumably the parasites were picked up from the terns' dominant prey item, Mole Crabs (*Emerita analoga*) occurring in the wet zone along the beach strand and known to be an intermediate host of the parasite. The w. subspecies of Gull-billed Tern, *vanrossemi*, is restricted to some 550 pairs nesting at 12 sites in Mexico and 250 pairs nesting at the Salton Sea and San Diego Bay in California; nesting success has been poor at many of these sites in recent years (Molina et al. 2010. Status review and conservation recommendations for the Gull-billed Tern [*Gelochelidon nilotica*] in North America. USFWS Tech. Pub. BTP-R1013-2010). This mortality event underscores the precarious nature of this subspecies' status in the United States. At S.E.S.S., over 200 pairs attempted to nest this year but had generally poor success (KCM).

19 Jul (JEP) was well inland and away from the Salton Sink; over 300 pairs nested at S.E.S.S., with relatively high success (KCM).

PIGEONS THROUGH VIREOS

A Band-tailed Pigeon on San Clemente Island 5 Jun (TRL) was at an unexpected location; a White-winged Dove there 5 Jul (DAP) was the only one reported coastally. Reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoos included singles at Picacho S.P., *Imperial* 14 Jul (JK) and the Lower Willows in Anza Borrego S.P. 6 Jul (KWi), a pair on the San Luis Rey River near Bonsall, *San Diego* 10 Jul (JMcM), one at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine, *Orange* 13-14 Jul (TEW), and one on San Clemente Island 3 Jul (NJD), the latter providing the third record for this Channel Island. Despite much effort by multiple observers, no Spotted Owls were detected in any of the canyons in the Santa Ana Mountains where this owl was previously known, suggesting this species may now be gone from *Orange*; on the other hand, territorial Northern Saw-whet Owls appeared to be holding on in the same area. A pair of Elf Owls was again present during May and Jun (AJS, EAE) at a remote desert oasis in *Riverside*; this is the only pair known in California. Encouraging were counts of up to 5 Common Nighthawks at five locations around Baldwin Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains in Jun (SRe, BSi); this species appears to be becoming quite rare in this area. Calling Mexican Whip-poor-wills included one at Green Canyon in the San Bernardino Mountains 11 May–29 Jun (BSi), 2 at 2160 m on Mount San Gorgonio 22 Jun (PHB), and another at Idyllwild in the San Jacinto Mountains 2 Jun (EAE). Up to 10 Black Swifts at Monkeyface Falls in the San Bernardino Mountains 13 May–6 Jul (DK, CAM) were at a known nesting location. A pair of Vaux's Swifts that fledged 2 young at Atascadero, *San Luis Obispo* in Jul (BR, KJZ) provides the first nesting record for the Region.

As Broad-tailed Hummingbirds are rare on the e. slope of the Sierra Nevada, the presence of 3 at widely separated locations e. of the Owens Valley this summer (SLS, C&RH) is of note. Adult male Allen's Hummingbirds near El Centro 10-16 & 22-24 Jul (KZK) and at Niland 24 Jul (CAM) were at the Salton Sink, where very few have been recorded. Gilded Flickers reported in the area around Cima Dome and the Landfair Valley in the Mojave National Preserve Mar through May (TME, JG, BA, SG) were in the only area where this species still nests in California, but hybrids with Northern (Red-shafted) Flickers are known, so it is not known how "pure" the Mojave birds are. A Crested Caracara was near the V.C.G.P. 11-14 Jun (AJS), and what appeared to be the same bird was at Estero Bluff S.P. 29 Jun (DML) and near Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo* 13-20 Jul (JW). A pair of Peregrine Falcons that fledged at least one chick in the area of the Cajon Pass (DG) made the second successful nesting record in modern times in *San Bernardino*.

A **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** photographed at Upper Otay Lake, *San Diego* 1 Jun (KH) was a remarkable first record of a spring vagrant of this species in California, even though it is regular in late fall and winter. The only other tyrannid of note was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Owens Lake, *Inyo* 12 Jun (JTZ). A Yellow-throated Vireo was at the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve near Blythe, *Riverside* 26 Jun (JT), and a Red-eyed Vireo remained at Claremont, *Los Angeles* 6-8 Jul (TM, TAB).

SWALLOWS THROUGH FINCHES

A Purple Martin at Bolsa Chica 4 Jun (RAE) was late and possibly the first for that well-worked area. Three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Avalon, Santa Catalina Island 11 Jul included one carrying food (RAE); this species' status as a breeder on the Channel Islands is poorly known, with breeding having been documented previously only on Santa Cruz Island. Nesting Western Bluebirds were documented at Lake Ming near Bakersfield, with 2 ads. and 2 young observed on 23 Jun (K&BK); breeding may be unprecedented in the San Joaquin Valley portion of *Kern*. A very late migrant nominate *ustulatus* Swainson's Thrush was at Garnet Queen Creek in the Santa Rosa Mountains, *Riverside* 25 Jun (PU). *Inyo*'s resident Curve-billed Thrasher continued at Starlite, w. of Bishop through 12 Aug (R&KS). A Cedar Waxwing at Tierrasanta, *San Diego* 16 Jul (JK) was perhaps summering locally. An American Pipit at Goleta 6-19 Jul (ALO) was in the lowlands, where casual in midsummer.

As always, spring vagrant warblers were encountered well into the summer period, with records not included in the spring report presented here. A Black-and-white Warbler was on San Clemente Island 24 Jun (RAE). A Tennessee Warbler at San Diego 1 Jun (JK) augmented the 5 found coastally in May. A Lucy's Warbler at C.L. 16 Jul (SLS) was the first to be found there in three years; another at Glen Helen R.P., *San Bernardino* 31 Jul (DG) was an early fall wanderer to the coastal slope. A Mourning Warbler well documented at Bishop 21-22 Jun (J&DP) was the eleventh to be found in the Region in spring/early summer. Hooded Warblers were at Santa Barbara 1 Jun (HPR), V.A.F.B. 10 Jun (JMC), and at Garnet Queen Creek 26-27 Jun (PU). Four American Redstarts were on the coast and offshore islands 1-23 Jun, with another 4 on the *Kern* deserts 6-22 Jun. The only Northern Parula was at Brea, *Orange* 9 Jun (GL). A Palm Warbler at B.S. 1 Jun (LBH) was not included in the spring report. Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers have generally departed the coastal lowlands by the end of May, so one at Hansen Dam 10 Jun (KLG) was noteworthy. A Hermit Warbler at Cerro Alto, *San Luis Obispo* 28 Jul (WK) was on a record early date for the county by 15 days; similarly, a Black-throated Gray Warbler near El Centro 28 Jul (KZK) was the earliest ever in the Salton Sink in fall by two weeks. A singing Black-throated Green Warbler at V.A.F.B. 1 Jun (JMC) established the second

Although Dusky-capped Flycatchers are found in California virtually every fall and/or winter, the species had not been found as a spring vagrant until this bird was photographed at Upper Otay Lake, San Diego County 1 June 2013. *Photograph by Kevin Hamm.*

spring record for *Santa Barbara*. Wilson's Warblers summered at Irvine for the third straight year, and breeding was confirmed with a male observed feeding a fledgling 22 Jun (BED). A **Red-faced Warbler** at Bluff Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains 16-18 Jun (BA) was the second ever in summer in that range and the first in six years.

Unseasonable for the lowlands, a Green-tailed Towhee was at Irvine 3 Jul (*fide* BML). A Clay-colored Sparrow at Huntington Beach 22 Jun (RAE) was a late spring vagrant. Unexpected in Jun, a Large-billed Savannah Sparrow was at the Tijuana River mouth, San Diego 20 Jun (MSa); the first fall arrival at s. San Diego Bay was 31 Jul (MSa). An Oregon Junco at the s. end of the Carrizo Plain, *San Luis Obispo* 9 Jul (KMS) was unseasonable for that area; a pair in the Tijuana River Valley was still present 24 Jun after being observed nest-building in May (PEL).

A very late spring vagrant Scarlet Tanager was at Huntington Beach 4 Jul (RoS). A **Pyrrhuloxia** photographed at a feeder on the Palos Verdes Peninsula 30 Jun (JA) was the second for *Los Angeles*, the first being in the desert portion of the county. As usual, a scattering of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was noted through the period, with at least 7 on the coastal slope 2 Jun–29 Jul and additional birds at Anza-Borrego S.P. 2 Jun (JK), s. of Inyokern 2-3 Jun (SLS), and at Big Pine, *Inyo* 25 Jun (T&JH). At least 24 Indigo Buntings (in addition to early Jun birds mentioned in the spring report) were found at widely scattered localities through the period, with the common denominator being riparian or montane chaparral habitat; this is a scarce but regular summering species in the Region, with breeding documented in many years. A male Lazuli Bunting near El Centro 28 Jul (KZK) established the earliest fall record for the Salton Sink. A Painted Bunting was at Big Pine 27 Jun (T&JH).

A flock of 108 Tricolored Blackbirds at Port Hueneme, *Ventura* 20 Jun (AJS, OJ) gives hope for the persistence of coastal breeding, although these birds were not in appropriate breeding habitat; 2 males at Irvine 28-29 Jun (KA) were noteworthy, considering the species' nearly complete disappearance from *Orange*. Late cardueline finches included a Pine Siskin on San Clemente Island 12-17 Jun (JTS) and a male Evening Grosbeak on Santa Cruz Island 1 Jun (DD).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Jim Aichele, Bruce Aird, Kat Avila, Joel Barrett (JBa), Richard Barth, Thomas A. Benson, Steve Bier, John Birsner (JBi), Peter H. Bloom, Barbara L. Carlson, Harry Carter, Jamie M. Chavez, **David M. Compton** (*Santa Barbara*), Daniel S. Cooper, Eric B. Culbertson, Mat Curto, Brian E. Daniels, Nicole J. Desnoyers, David Dewey, Dean DiTommaso, Jon L. Dunn, **Tom M. Edell** (*San Luis Obispo*), Elias A. Elias, Jon S. Feenstra, Alexis Frangis, Dave Furseth, Peter A. Gaede, **Kimball L. Garrett** (*Los Angeles*), Dave Goodward, Stan Gray, John F. Green, Jessica Griffith, Kevin Hamm, Lauren B. Harter, **Tom & Jo Heindel** (*Inyo*), **Kelli Heindel-Levinson** (*Kern*), Rod Higbie, Chris and Rosie Howard (C & RH), Jim Howard, Oscar Johnson, Al Kalin, Eric G. Kallen, Doug Karalun, Jay Keller, Howard B. King, Will Knowlton, **Alexander E. Koonce** (*San Bernardino*), Kenneth Z. Kurland, Ken and Brenda Kyle (K & BK), Dave M. Lawrence, Brian M. Leatherman, Paul E. Lehman, Garett Lepper, Tony R. Leukering, Libby Lindsay, Curtis A. Marantz, Wayne Martin, **Guy McCaskie** (*San Diego and Imperial*), **Chet McGaugh** (*Riverside*), Jimmy McMorran, Robert McNab, Thomas Miko, Bob Miller, Kathy C. Molina, Jennifer Moonjian, Dominik Mosur, Adrian L. O'Loghlen, Doug A. Page, Jim and Debby Parker (J & DP), Jim Pea, David Pereksta (DPe), Jason K. Pietrzak, James E. Pike, Dave Povey (DPo), Hugh P. Ranson, Sandra Remley (SRe) Steve Ritt (SRi), Bill Rucci, Matt Sadowski, Russell Scalf (RuS), Roger Schroedl (RoS), Rick and Karen Scott (R & KS), **Adam J. Searcy** (*Ventura*), Jeff Seay (JSe), Kathy M. Sharum, Brad Singer (BSi), Benjamin Smith (BSm), BJ Stacy, **Justyn T. Stahl** (San Clemente Island), Susan L. Steele, Jeremiah Stock (JSt), Julie Szabo (JSz), Daniel Tinoco, Jennifer Tobin, Philip Unitt, Kenneth Weaver (KWe), James White, **Douglas R. Willick** (*Orange*), Ken Wilson (KWi), Thomas E. Wurster, Jerry T. Zatorski, Kevin J. Zimmer. An additional 30± observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports; all have our thanks. ✈

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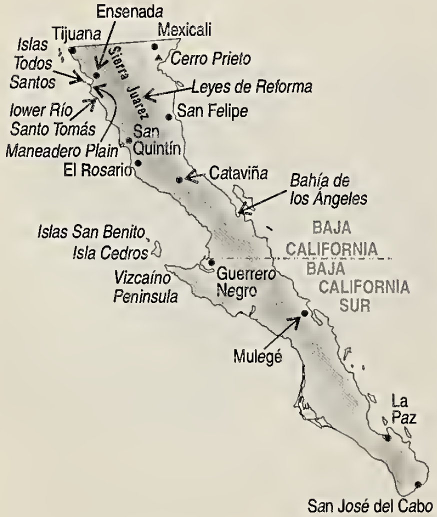
Baja California Peninsula



Richard A. Erickson
Roberto Carmona
Gorgonio Ruiz-Campos

Many unseasonable waterbirds were found this season, particularly in the Guerrero Negro area. In the Colorado Desert portion of the Region, Redhead was found nesting for the first time and Eared Grebe for the second. A good showing of Northern Harriers extended all the way to northern Baja California Sur. A Broad-billed Hummingbird was the most unexpected bird found.

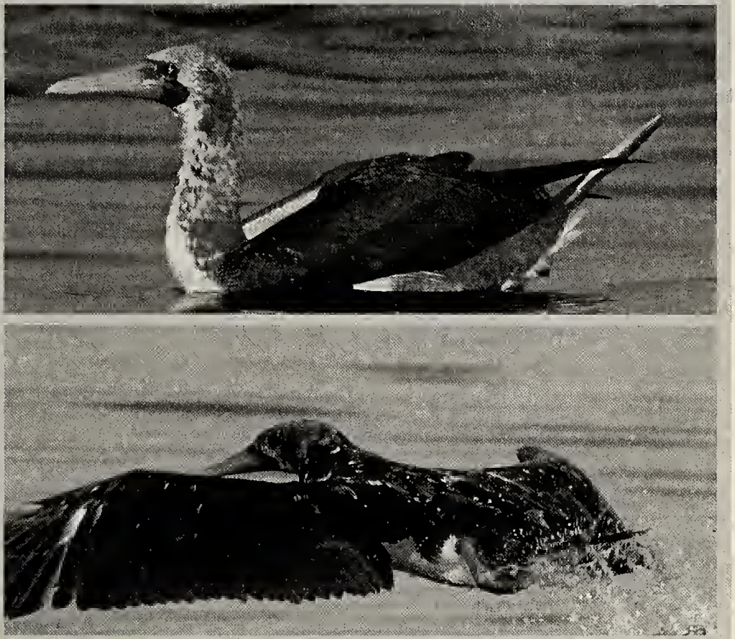
WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

This year's confirmation of nesting by Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks came from Lagunas de Chametla, where broods were found 4-12 Aug and 27 Sep (ph. GM). Summering Brant were especially well reported. In addition to birds in the Guerrero Negro area (Table 1), 21 were seen at four locations s. to Isla San Roque 26 May–25 Jun (JB, KB, LDLR, AH, EDZH). Ducks reported nesting included Gadwall (Río Guadalupe estuary; RAE), Mallard (four locations in the nw.; ph. NDJ, RAE), and Ruddy Duck (two locations in the ne.; RMA, MJB, RAE). The most significant was a female Redhead with 6 chicks at the Las Arenitas sewage ponds 27 Jun (ph. ESM), representing the species' first nesting record for the ne. Additional Redheads were at Todos Santos, a potential nesting site in the Cape District, 9-13 Jul (7; KB, JB) and on salt water at Estero Punta Banda 17 Jun (3; RAE). Unseasonable ducks, in addition to the many listed in Table 1, in-

SA Nazca Booby reaches the n. limit of its range in our Region. Pitman and Jehl (1998) reported that the species occurs throughout the Gulf of California, and some may breed at Rocas Alijos, but we have received few reports of this species over the past 14 years. In general, Nazca Boobies prefer foraging near shore, while Masked Boobies favor deeper waters. Mlodinow provided this identification summary of Masked and Nazca Boobies to accompany these photographs of a possible Nazca Booby off Los Barriles 20 Aug.

The identification of ads. and juvs. is difficult but fairly well understood, as birds of known species have been assessed on the breeding grounds. The identification of other plumages is not well understood, and these species take four years to mature fully. The bird in these photographs appears to be in its second plumage cycle. Relevant references for identification of these taxa in subad. plumages include Pitman and Jehl (1998. Geographic variation and reassessment of species limits in the "Masked" Boobies of the eastern Pacific Ocean. *Wilson Bulletin* 110: 155-170), Roberson (1998. Sulids unmasked: Which large booby reaches California? *Field Notes* 52: 276-287), and Pyle (2008. *Identification Guide to North American Birds, Part II*. Slate Creek Press, Point Reyes Station, California). These sources favor identification of this bird as Nazca Booby, based on the following features:

- Orange at base of bill; orange hue appears as early as 4-8 months of age in Nazca Booby and is diagnostic, though perhaps ambiguous in these photographs;
- White central rectrices, which are present on approximately 60% of ad. Nazca and rarely if ever on Masked Boobies of any age;
- Dark rump; the rump should be extensively white on Masked Booby by second cycle;
- Lack of neck collar; only 10-25% of juv. Masked Boobies lack neck collar; and
- Culmen not straight but has slight dip about two-thirds of the way out; culmen should be straight on Masked Booby.



This immature Nazca or Masked Booby was in the southern Gulf of California off Los Barriles, Baja California Sur 20 August 2013. *Photographs by Steven G. Mlodinow.*

cluded individual Northern Shovelers 9 Jul at Lagunita El Ciprés (EDZH) and Todos Santos (KB, JB), Lesser Scaup at Estero San José 17 Aug (2) and near Santiago 18 Aug (one; all SGM, GM), and 3 Red-breasted Mergansers at Bahía San Quintín 25 Jun (KB, JB). Similarly unseasonable were single Pacific and Common Loons at Bahía de los Ángeles 27 Jun (KB, JB). Eared Grebes nested again at the Las Arenitas sewage ponds, where first documented in 2010; at least one pair with young was seen 30 Aug–13 Sep (ph. ESM et al.).

Two Wood Storks were in the Chametla area throughout the period (ph. GM). At Presa Abelardo Rodriguez, on the se. outskirts of Tijuana, 3 Brown Pelicans (along with 200 Western Gulls and one Glaucous-winged Gull) on 26 Jul (RAE) were unexpected. The marsh at Estero San José has flourished since Hurricane *Juliette* ravaged the area in 2001. Least Bittern reports began in 2006, have increased since, and nesting was confirmed on 19 Apr when a juv. was found (PAG). Northern Harriers were surprisingly well reported. A female and fledgling at La Salina 17 Jun were at a traditional location, but the same cannot be said of a pair in an ap-

SA Baja California is fortunate to be involved in the California Condor reintroduction program (Walters et al., *Auk* 127: 969-1001). We received an update on Baja California's birds from Juan Vargas, Catalina Porras, Mohamed Saad, and Gonzalo De León Girón. The Mexican reintroduction program began in 2002 with the support of The Zoological Society of San Diego (now San Diego Zoo Global), the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), Instituto Nacional de Ecología (INE; now Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático, INECC), and Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP).

This was an off year for nesting, as the 2 young fledged in 2012 were still being tended to at the beginning of the season. The wild population stands at 29 and includes at least four breeding pairs as of the end of 2013. Many observers have now enjoyed the sight of these magnificent birds in the skies over the Sierra San Pedro Mártir.

This California Condor was hatched in the wild in 2012 and was photographed over the Sierra San Pedro Mártir, Baja California on 4 February 2013. *Photograph by Juan Vargas.*

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was first found nesting in Baja California Sur at Lagunas de Chametla in 2004. This family was at the same location on 12 August 2013. *Photograph by Gerardo Marrón.*

parent food drop at the Río Guadalupe estuary 3 Apr or the 4 (including at least one juv.) at Estero Punta Banda 26 Jul (all RAE). More remarkable were individuals in the Guerrero Negro area, Baja California Sur and Baja California respectively, on 28 May and 24 Jul (VAP), far s. of known nesting areas. An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk was in the Sierra Juarez at Laguna Hanson 25 Jul (RAE). Grinnell (1928, *A Distributional Summation of the Ornithology of Lower California*) reported oversummering Wandering Tattlers nearly 85 years ago, but 8 found the length of Baja California Sur this summer was remarkable. Other unseasonable shorebirds included a Ruddy Turnstone at Isla Natividad 8 Jun and 2 Ruddy and 12 Black Turnstones at Isla San Roque 8 Jun (all LDLR), and 2 Lesser Yellowlegs 17-20 Jun (RAE, ph. EDZH) and 2 Western Sandpipers 13-17 Jun (LOS, RAE) at Lagunita El Ciprés. A Wilson's Snipe at Lagunas de Chametla 20 Jul (GM) was very early. Two Wilson's Phalaropes at Laguna Hanson 25 Jul (RAE) were apparently the first found at that mountain location. Black Tern numbers at the Guerrero Negro saltworks peaked at 4468 on 23-24 Jul (VAP).

OWLS THROUGH ORIOLES

The endemic Cape Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma hoskinsii*) was reported calling at Cayuco, near Bahía Magdalena, 1 Jun (†GM). North of La Paz this and a number of other Cape District endemics are largely restricted to the e. side of the peninsula. However, more precise information is usually lacking, making it hard to know how critically to consider a heard-only record such as this. A male Broad-billed Hummingbird at Todos Santos 9 Jul (KB, JB) was a rare visitor from mainland Mexico. Interesting swallows included 5 Purple Martins on 25 Jul in the vicinity of Laguna Hanson (RAE), where the species is presumably in decline (if conditions in California are any guide); an unseasonable Tree Swallow at Lagunita El Ciprés 17 Jun (RAE); and a Barn Swallow in potentially suitable nesting habitat on the beach at Cantamar 17-19 Jun (RAE, EDZH). Another problematic heard-only record was of 3 singing Ruby-crowned Kinglets in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir 23 Jun (KB, JB). Although an endemic subspecies was formerly found on Isla Guadalupe, there are no other summer records for the Region. Two singing American Robins were heard—and seen—in the Sierra Juarez at Arroyo del Sauz 25 Jul (RAE). A Sage Thrasher at the Guerrero Negro saltworks 23 Jul (VAP) was early.

The season was bracketed by the last and first migrant Western Tanagers near Tecate on 6 Jun and 15 Jul, respectively (RL). One Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found, at Puerto San Carlos 1 Jun (ph. GM, LAE). Black-headed Grosbeaks returned to the Cape District mountains in early Jul, with 2 near La Victoria 4 Jul and 3 at La Laguna 10-11 Jul (KB, JB). In May and Jun, Feenstra surveyed for Tricolored Blackbirds throughout their Regional range in the second year of drought (compare summer reports for 2007 and 2008). He found a total of only 200-300 birds at three nesting sites, most at a new site at Cienega Redonda. Birds were subsequently seen on 25 Jul at Rancho Japá (30) and Ojos Negros (200, where 20 had been in May) (RAE). Concern is growing over the fate of this species throughout its range. Great-tailed Grackles apparently nested in the mountains at Rancho Japá: 10 there 5 May (including calling from reeds, JSF) were followed by 10, including juvs., on 25 Jul (RAE). In n. Baja California Sur, one at San Ignacio 29 Jun (KB, JB) was apparently the first to be found at that location.

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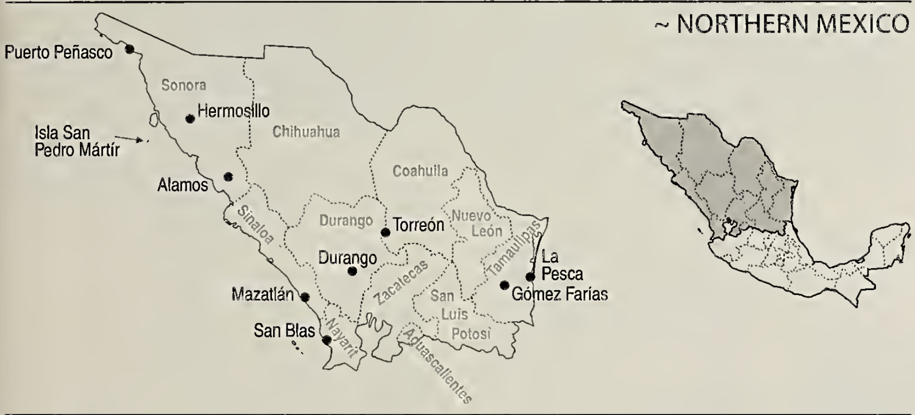
SA This is a follow-up to what we wrote about Carmona's regular monitoring of the Guerrero Negro area (Lagunas Ojo de Liebre, Guerrero Negro, saltworks [ESSA], and vicinity), and the area's importance for wintering birds, in *North American Birds* 67: 344. Here we highlight the number of unseasonable waterbirds using the area in summer. Unfortunately, survey dates were not ideally situated this year to show the number of oversummering shorebirds. Observers this season: NA, VAP, GG, FM, FP.

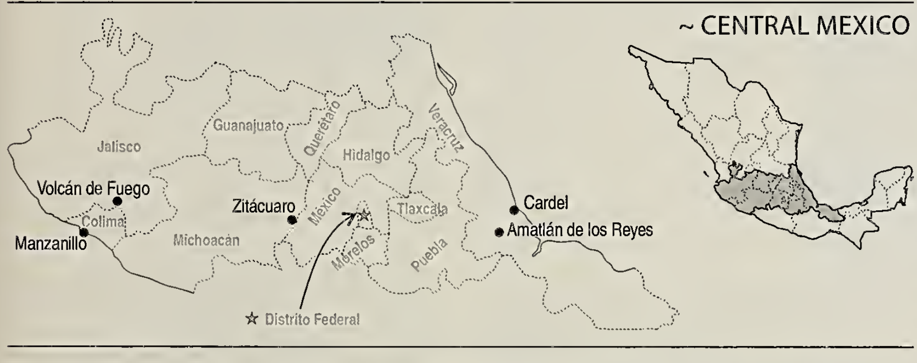
Species	Date	Number	Species	Date	Number
Brant	25-28 May	758	Greater Yellowlegs	26-29 Jun	152
American Wigeon	29 Jun	1	Ruddy Turnstone	25 Jun	1
Northern Pintail	28-29 Jun	16	Dunlin	26 Jun	1
Lesser Scaup	28-29 Jun	20	Red-necked Phalarope	28 Jun	6
Surf Scoter	24 Jul	4	Ring-billed Gull	25-28 May	117
Ruddy Duck	29 Jun	1	California Gull	25 Jun	1
Eared Grebe	23-24 Jul	1249	Herring Gull	23 Jul	1
Western Grebe	23-24 Jul	2	Glaucous-winged Gull	23 Jul	1
Clark's Grebe	28 Jun	7	Black Tern	28 Jun	3
American White Pelican	23-25 Jul	91			

Héctor Gómez de Silva

NORTHERN MEXICO

There was a very large number of record-late dates for several migratory species from throughout Mexico, especially waterfowl. Two **Canvasbacks**, 8 **Redheads**, and 16 **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** were seen at the sewage treatment plant in Gomez Palacio, Dgo. 24 Jul (MRLL, FVP). Three Canvasbacks, 11 Gadwalls, a Green-winged Teal, and 3 Canvasbacks were observed in the wetlands of Los Alamos ranch, 20 km ne. of Durango, Dgo. 1 Jun (ph. JHM, AG, EA). A Blue-winged Teal was at Punta Mita, Nay. 20 Jun (WL). Five American Wigeons were at Málaga, Dgo. 1 Jun (JHM). In Nuevo León, a few hundred kilometers n. of the species' normal range, a **Bat Falcon** was found at Chipinque Park, Monterrey 22 Jul (ph. RD). An **Anhinga** was observed at El Mezquital, Dgo. 29 Jun (ph. BS, ph. JHM).


~ NORTHERN MEXICO
Puerto Peñasco
Sonora
Hermosillo
Isla San Pedro Mártir
Chihuahua
Alamos
Coahuila
Sinaloa
Durango
Torreón
Nuevo León
Tamaulipas
Durango
La Pesca
Zacatecas
Gómez Farias
Mazatlán
San Luis Potosi
San Blas
Nayarit
Aguascalientes


~ CENTRAL MEXICO
Guanajuato
Querétaro
Veracruz
Jalisco
Hidalgo
Volcán de Fuego
Colima
Zitácuaro
México
Tlaxcala
Cardel
Amatlán de los Reyes
Manzanillo
Michoacán
Morelos
Puebla
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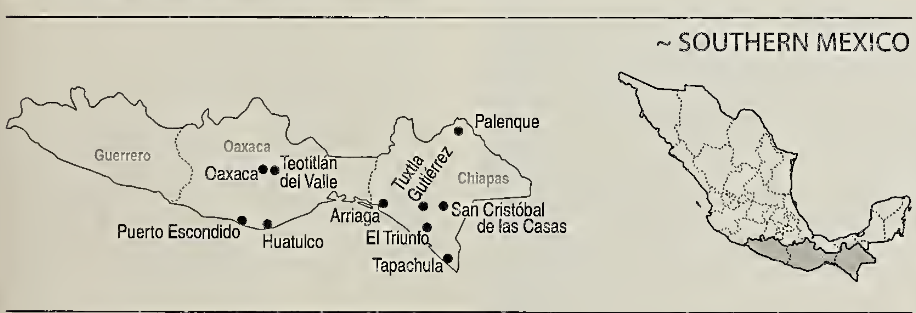
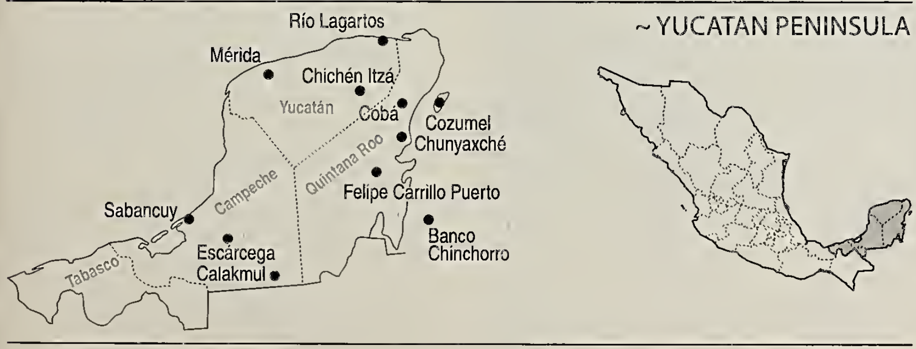

~ SOUTHERN MEXICO
Palenque
Guerrero
Oaxaca
Oaxaca
Teotitlán del Valle
Tuxtla Gutiérrez
Chiapas
Arriaga
San Cristóbal de las Casas
Puerto Escondido
Huatulco
El Triunfo
Tapachula


~ YUCATAN PENINSULA
Río Lagartos
Mérida
Chichén Itzá
Yucatán
Cobá
Cozumel
Chunyaxché
Quintana Roo
Campeche
Felipe Carrillo Puerto
Sabancuy
Banco Chinchorro
Escárcega
Tabasco
Calakmul

Throughout the period, several Tropical Kingbirds were seen in the Instituto Tecnologico de La Laguna, the John F. Kennedy square, and other city parks in Torréon, Coah., where Western Kingbirds are also present (FVP, MRLL). Rare at this site in Nuevo León, an **Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush** was seen near La Peñita in Cumbres de Monterrey N.P. 31 Jul (RV). In the same state, an early migrant **Black-throated Green Warbler** was observed near Puerto Hondable 30 Jul (RV). Some 23 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Los Álamos 1 Jun (JHM).

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CENTRAL MEXICO

Probably furnishing a first state record for Veracruz, a pair of Mexican Ducks was flushed out of a small creek near the town of Las Minas 12 Jun (ph. JM, AM). A Blue-winged Teal was at Santa Alejandrina near Minatitlán, Ver. 6 Jun (MG). A female Canvasback was at Presa La Vega, Jal. 15 Jun (ph. JBJ). About 30 American Wigeons, a Northern Shoveler, and 50 American White Pelicans were at Presa La Vega 2 Jun (JBJ). At least 1000 American White Pelicans were at Presa La Vega 15 Jun (JBJ), and 130 were at Crucero del Carmen, Ahualulco del Mercado, Jal. 13 Jun (JAAR). Around 114 Roseate Spoonbills were at Presa La Vega 15 Jun (JBJ).

A first documented record for Veracruz, a pair of Mexican Ducks was located near Las Minas 12 June 2013. *Photograph by Jorge Montejo.*

Furnishing the first nesting record for Veracruz, Cassin's Kingbirds were observed carrying insects to a nest on a transformer tower near Perote 12 June 2013. *Photograph by Amy McAndrews.*

An American Golden-Plover was photographed at Presa La Vega 2 Jun (ph. JBJ). Around 35 Ring-billed Gulls, 18 Caspian Terns, and 2 Forster's Terns were at Presa La Vega 15 Jun (JBJ). A pair of Peregrine Falcons was seen flying over Insurgentes and Viaducto, D.F. 18 Jun through 11 Jul (HGdS, MPV). A first nesting record for Veracruz, a pair of Cassin's Kingbirds was observed carrying insects to a nest high on a transformer tower near Perote 12 Jun (ph. AM, ph. JM). A Gray Silky-flycatcher was at Xola and Patricio Sanz, D.F. 30 Jul (HGdS). An unseasonable Swainson's Thrush was mist-netted at Santa Alejandrina 12 Jun (MG). A very late migrating Yellow Warbler was in the town of Las Minas 12 Jun (ph. AM, ph. JM). Probably late migrants at Santa Alejandrina were one McGillivray's Warbler and one Magnolia Warbler 4 Jun and one Mourning Warbler 5 Jun (MG). A Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer was heard at Xola and Heriberto Frías, D.F. 25 Jul (HGdS, MPV).

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SOUTHERN MEXICO & YUCATAN PENINSULA

Two Blue-winged Teal were photographed in the coastal lagoon behind Progreso, Yuc. 2 Jun (CP) and 2 at Sisal, Yuc. 15 Jul (LS). A Redhead was at Paraíso, Tab. 30 Jun (RCDM). Also in the Progreso lagoon were 3 male Northern Shovelers, 2 American White Pelicans, and a small flock of unidentified plovers (CP). A Purple Gallinule that was seen in Acuaparque, Mérida, Yuc. 23 May was still there 16 Jun, thus possibly a resident bird.

An unidentified waterthrush was observed 20 Jul along the road between Puerto Morelos and Selvática, Q. Roo 20 Jul (AA, CC). A male White-winged Tanager was photographed at Central Vallarta 21 Jun, where the species has been recorded nesting in the past (ph. René Denis). This is the only location where the species has been repeatedly reported on the peninsula.

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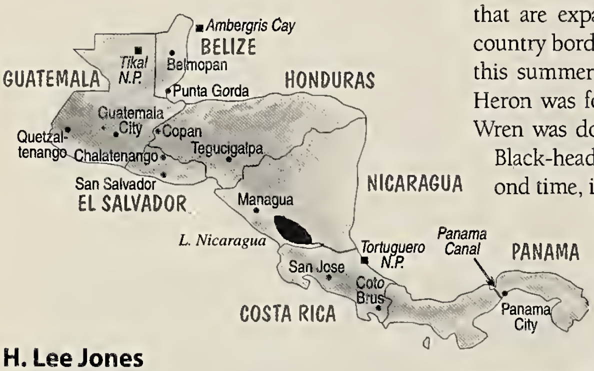
Central America



H. Lee Jones
Oliver Komar

Although early summer is the slow season for birders in Central America, those who remain afield can add significantly to our knowledge of migration schedules for many species by picking up the last of the spring migrants in June and the first fall migrants in July and. The first half of June has also proven to be a good time to pick up stragglers, those off-course migrants that turn up in areas well outside their normal range. Also, those who continue birding through the summer are often the ones who first detect species that are expanding their ranges, often across country borders for the first time. For example, this summer, North America's first Whistling Heron was found in Panama in July, and Bay Wren was documented for the first time, and Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher for the second time, in Honduras, both in mid-July. On another front, the Roseate Tern colony first discovered in the Bay Islands in 2005 was still active when visited this summer, although fewer birds were present than when previously visited. Nevertheless, it is encouraging to know that this species still breeds in Central America.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SWIFTS

Perhaps summering, 4 Blue-winged Teal were seen in Guatemala 21 Jun at San Cristóbal Verapaz, *Alta Verapaz* (JPC). In Nicaragua, 2 Blue-winged Teal were observed 1 Jun and 2 Northern Shovelers were observed 8 Jun at Tisma Lagoon, *Masaya* (both JS). A male Blue-winged Teal in eclipse plumage observed on Selva Negra Coffee Estate, *Matagalpa* 18 Jul (GI) was likely also summering. On 9 Jun, MB observed 500 American White Pelicans in El Guayabo wetlands *Granada*, a surprisingly large number for such a late date. Up until last year, a concentration of this size would have seemed inconceivable for Nicaragua, but that changed when over 1000 birds visited this location this past winter and spring. Brown Pelicans seen well inland in Central America are usually high-flying birds or singles seen on large inland lakes. A juv. found at Prusia, *Cartago* at 2600 m on the slopes of Irazú Volcano 2 Jul (ph. YC, U.O.C.R.) was on the ground in a pasture, far from any large bodies of water and at a notably high elevation. Other seabirds that have been found grounded on the upper slopes of the cen. cordilleras in Costa Rica in the past include jaegers and a Red-billed Tropicbird.

Providing yet another first for Panama and North America, a **Whistling Heron** was found perched in a tree in marshy farmland near Chepo, *Panamá* 11 Jul (ph. KEa, HB, JH, MS). Unfortunately, people who searched the area over the next few weeks failed to relocate the bird. Since the first record for Honduras in 2009, Pearl Kite has established a pattern of sparse but regular sightings, the majority in the s. lowlands around the Gulf of Fonseca. A single individual was seen in that area (*Cholute-*

SA Red-throated Caracara is a species of note anywhere in cen. and n. Central America. In Costa Rica, 4 ad. Red-throated Caracaras were discovered in the vicinity of a small forest patch in broken farmland about 25 km nw. of Arenal at La Garita de Guatuso, *Alajuela* 25 Jun (ph. JDV). On 27 Jun, 3 ads. were present (ph. KEa, ph. JDV, HB, HV, JZ), and on 5 Jul, 5 ads. and a recent fledgling were found at the same site (ph. JDV). They became very vocal when approached and tended to come together around one big tree when disturbed. Although the fledgling was seen in this tree, the nesting site was never located. This formerly widespread species experienced precipitous declines in the previous decades and disappeared even from large areas of apparently suitable habitat. This is the first recent sighting away from large protected areas around Tortuguero, Corcovado, and Braulio Carrillo, and it is encouraging that the birds were able to successfully reproduce in an altered rural landscape.

Providing one of the few summer records for Central America, a Snowy Plover was observed at Salinas Grandes on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua 22 June 2013. *Photograph by Manfred Bienert.*

ca) 3 Jul (OP). A population of Clapper Rails discovered in 2010 in the Gulf of Fonseca appears to be rather sizable, perhaps numbering in the thousands. Researchers on a collecting expedition to the Honduran part of the Gulf of Fonseca detected no fewer than 33 individuals on a 500-m stretch of Black Mangrove scrub in *Choluteca* 24 Jul and had no trouble finding the species elsewhere in the area that week (JM, JvD).

In Nicaragua, 2 Southern Lapwings were at El Guayabo wetlands 9 & 18 Jun (MB), and a Snowy Plover in breeding plumage was observed at Salinas Grandes, *Leon* 22 Jun (ph. MB). In Honduras, 2 Killdeers were present at Salinera La Ostia near San Lorenzo, *Valle* 23 Jun–10 Jul (ph. JvD, RJ), with one remaining through the end of the period (JM). Another apparently summering Killdeer was reported in Nicaragua at Laguna de Tisma 18 Jul (MB). Also in Nicaragua, 6 American Avocets, all in breeding plumage, were observed at Tisma Lagoon 1 Jun (ph. JS). Noteworthy was a Gray-hooded Gull at Panama Viejo in Panama City 30 Jun (ph. KEa, HB, JH). Cayos Cochinos N.P. in the Bay Islands off the n. coast of Honduras is rarely visited by birders during the summer. When visited 29 Jun, one of the small colonies of Roseate Terns discovered in 2005–2006 was still flourishing. On this date, 50 individuals, some incubating, were found on two tiny coral islands within the park (LZ, MO, ph. AS). Although a careful survey was not carried out, this compares with 176 ads. and a minimum of 43 nests found on two islands in 2006 and an unspecified number on a different island in 2005. With all the disturbance from fishermen and resort development in Belize, where Roseate Tern may now be extirpated, the Cayos Cochinos colony or colonies may be the last remaining in Central America. Two Forster's Terns observed at El Guayabo wetlands 9 Jun (MB) may have been late spring migrants or summering individuals.

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove is one species that has benefited from large-scale deforestation. One seen 25 km n. of San Andrés, *Petén* 12 Jul (ph. JPC) furnished a new site record. Also in Guatemala, where it occurs locally and sporadically, 2 Maroon-chested Ground-Doves were heard at Pacaya Volcano, *Escuintla* 23 Jun (JPC). For at least the fourth year in a row, Oilbirds have invaded Monteverde, *Puntarenas* during the period of Jun through Aug or Sep. People began noticing this summer incursion in 2010 and now anticipate the birds' appearance at this time of year. First reported this year 27 Jun (RGu), sightings continued through the period, with mostly single birds at day-roosts or feeding in small groups at night on abundant wild avocado fruits, especially those of *Ocotea montiverdensis*. The most seen in one day was 5 on 19 Jul (RG). In what may be the first report from Tenorio

Rare anywhere in Central America in summer, 2 Killdeer, first observed on Honduras's Pacific slope near San Lorenzo Bay 23 June 2013 (here), were last seen there 27 July. *Photograph by John van Dort.*

Roseate Tern persists as a nester in Central America. A small colony of about 50 individuals, some incubating eggs, was found on two tiny islands in Cayos Cochinos National Park in the Bay Islands off the northern coast of Honduras on 29 June 2013. Discovered in the park in 2005 when a small colony of unspecified number was found, and again in 2006 when 176 adults and 43 nests were reported on two additional small cays in the park, the lower numbers this year suggest that the colony may be in decline; however, a direct comparison of these incomplete results from unspecified cays is not possible. *Photograph by Amy Simmans.*

With fewer than ten records for Central America, all but two from Panama, this Gray-hooded Gull discovered at Panamá Viejo on 30 June 2013 was noteworthy. *Photograph by Kevin Easley.*

As much of the rainforest across northern Belize and adjacent Guatemala has gradually been replaced by agriculture and urban development, Plain-breasted Ground-Dove, an inhabitant of savannas, pastureland, and other unforested landscapes, has spread westward. The latest record on this expansion frontier in northern Guatemala is provided by this one, seen along the road to Respingo, about 25 kilometers north of San Andrés, on 12 July 2013. *Photograph by John P. Cahill.*

Volcano N.P., *Guanacaste*, an Oilbird was seen on a day roost in the Río Celeste section of the park about 58 km nw. of Monteverde, on 21 Jul (ph. LT, U.O.C.R.). In Guatemala, where it is rare, a Great Swallow-tailed Swift was seen at Finca Santa Rosa, 5 km w. of Purulhá, *Baja Verapaz*, on 1 Jul (JPC).

Rarely reported n. of Costa Rica, a Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant was seen in Honduras in the vicinity of Río Patuca, *Olancho* 4 Jul (RB). Also in Honduras, a **Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher** was observed 19 Jul in the Río Platano Biosphere Reserve, *Colón* (RoG), providing only the second record for Honduras. One, possibly the same individual, was first reported at the same location earlier this year on 21 Apr. A late Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at El Guayabo wetlands 1 Jun (LC, GD). White-throated Flycatcher is presumed to be a rare and local winter visitor in Belize, where one or more birds have wintered at The Dump in s. *Toledo* since at least 2004. One heard calling there 26 Jul (LJ) established the earliest date by more than a month for Belize. Two White-winged Becards 10 km sw. of Juticalpa, *Olancho* 12 Jun (OK) were noteworthy, as the species is rarely reported anywhere in Honduras. An exceptionally early Bank Swallow was observed foraging low over Salinera La Ostia, a salt pond complex in *Valle*, s. Honduras 27 Jul (RJ, JM, JvD).

A **Bay Wren** heard singing in the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve, *Colón* 21 Jul (RoG) provided a first country record for Honduras. This species is fairly common in Nicaragua close to the Honduran border, so its discovery in e. Honduras was anticipated. Also in Honduras, a male Tropical Gnatcatcher was found singing in semi-humid second growth at an elevation of 400 m at La Fortuna, *Choluteca* 13 Jul (RJ, ph. JvD). While regular on Honduras's n. coast, it has not been recorded previously on the Pacific slope, although there are a few recent records from adjacent *Chinandega* in Nicaragua. A Tropical Mockingbird at Punta Gorda 25 Jul (LJ) was the first to be recorded in summer in s. *Toledo*, where it is an uncommon winter visitor. A Northern Waterthrush at Tikal, *Petén*, 1 Jun (JPC) was a late spring migrant. Although known from the Pacific Slope in neighboring El Salvador, Red-legged Honeycreeper is rarely reported from the Pacific slope in Honduras and Nicaragua, where it is more regular on the more humid Atlantic slope. Noteworthy, therefore, were 3 observed at La Fortuna 13 Jul (RJ, JvD). Historically, this species was considered common in the lowlands of both coasts in Honduras (Monroe 1968), but in recent times has become scarce in the Honduran s. lowlands. In El Salvador, an ad. male Orchard Oriole at Bosque de Chaguantique, *Usulután* 8 Jun (ph. JA, MBo, m.ob.) provided the first Jun record published on eBird for all of Central America.

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Seldom reported on the Pacific slope of Central America north of Costa Rica, this singing male Tropical Gnatcatcher is apparently the first to be recorded on the Pacific side of Honduras. It was discovered in semi-humid second growth near La Fortuna in Choluteca Department on 13 July 2013. *Photograph by John van Dort.*

With the occasional exception of a straggler found in the first few days of May, Orchard Orioles have all departed Central America for northern breeding grounds by the end of April. This bird and an accompanying female were found 8 June 2013 at Bosque de Chaguantique in El Salvador. *Photograph by Jeniffer Abrego.*

West Indies & Bermuda

SO. CAROLINA
GEORGIA
FLORIDA
BERMUDA
L. Okee-chobee
Grand Bahama I.
THE BAHAMAS
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Abaco I.
New Providence I.
Free-port
Eleuthera I.
Cat I.
Andros I.
Nassau
San Salvador
Long I.
Havana
Great Exuma
Crooked I.
TURKS & CAICOS IS.
CUBA
Acklins I.
Isle of Youth
Great Inagua
CAYMAN IS.
PUERTO RICO
San Juan
VIRGIN IS.
Port-au-Prince
Grand Cayman
St. Kitts
Barbuda
Antigua
JAMAICA
Kingston
HAITI
Santo Domingo
DOMINICAN REP.
Montserrat
Guadeloupe
Swan Is.
LESSER ANTILLES
Dominica
CARIBBEAN SEA
Martinique
St. Lucia
NICARAGUA
Providence I.
Curaçao
St. Vincent
Barbados
Aruba
St. Andrew I.
Bonaire
Grenada
Tobago
COLOMBIA
VENEZUELA
Trinidad

Robert L. Norton
Anthony White
Andrew Dobson
Anthony Levesque

Summer is usually a slow season in the Region, but in 2013 it was anything but for the Bahamas: the country's first albatross was well documented with photographs, and there was a fourth country record of Black Rail. Notable records of the period for Bermuda were undoubtedly the seabirds seen by Paul Watson aboard a *Sea Dragon* trip up to 320 kilometers south into Sargasso Sea waters 1-6 June.

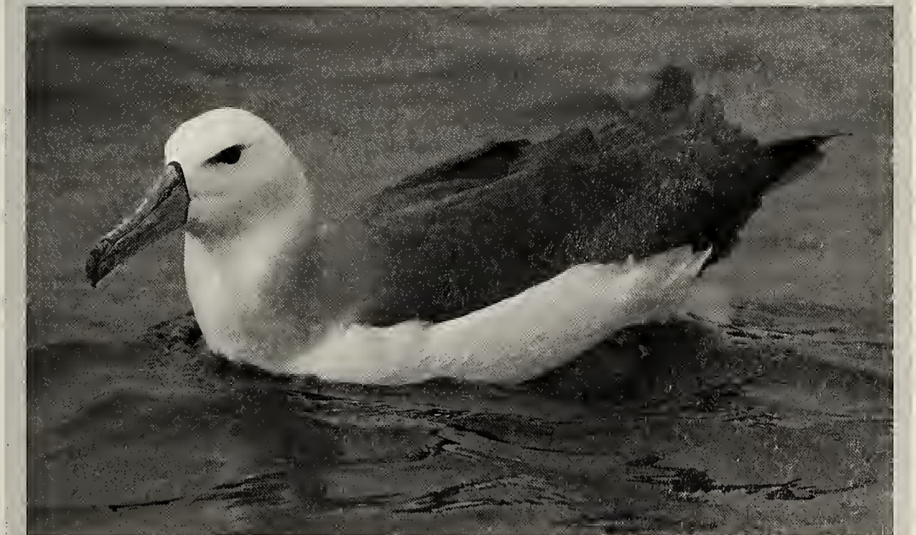
WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Two Wood Ducks summered at Tucker's Point G.C., Bermuda (AD). A White-cheeked Pintail at Pointe des Châteaux 9 Jun (FD) and another at Port-Louis swamp 4 Jul (AL) suggest nesting somewhere on Guadeloupe (AL). The long-staying Long-tailed Duck was last seen on Tucker's Point G.C., Bermuda 8 Jun (AD). A male Ruddy Duck summered on Cloverdale Pond, Bermuda (AD).

At Bermuda, four shearwater species (Great, Cory's, Sooty, Manx/Audubon's), as well as several Wilson's, Leach's, and a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, were seen during the *Sea Dragon* voyage 1-6 Jun (PW). A possible Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was also seen off Bermuda on the *Atlantic Explorer* 17 Jun (DBW). Among other highlights of the *Sea Dragon* trip about 370 km s. of Bermuda were a Masked Booby and **Red billed Tropicbird** 2 Jun (PW). Two Masked Boobies were seen off Bermuda on the *Atlantic Explorer* 14 Jun (DBW). Bracey saw 10 Audubon's Shearwaters and a Wilson's Storm-Petrel off Abaco 15 Jun. A Brown Booby was seen from a cruise ship off Castaway Cay, Abaco 2 Jul (RvE). Moore conducted a workshop at Graham's Harbour, San Salvador 20 Jun and counted nearly 750 Brown Boobies, 5 Red-footed Boobies, and 88 Magnificent Frigatebirds. Frigatebirds are uncommon near New Providence, so one seen from shore at Coral Harbour 6 Jun (CW) was noteworthy. Eight ad. White-tailed Tropicbirds were confirmed nesting at Highbourne Cay, Exumas 15 Jul (JK, KH). Single Neotropic Cormorants at Cooperstown 12 Jun and Treasure Cay 19 Jun–23 Jul (EB) continued their small presence on Abaco.

Maillis reports that Ring-necked Pheasants are nesting on his farm on New Providence, but their efforts are being thwarted by routine farm operations and by ants. A Least Bittern was noted flying across the lagoon at Bimini 11 Jul (JK, KH). Pinder counted 70+ Cattle Egrets at Gladstone Road Agricultural Centre, New Providence 25 Jun. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons with young of the year were observed on Highbourne Cay, Exumas 14 & 18 Jul (JK, KH). Tricolored Heron, Little Blue Heron, Green Heron, and White Ibis were noted nesting on Pigeon Cay, Bimini 11 Jul (JK, KH). A **Striated Heron** was photographed at Alaska Swamp, Barbados 4 Jun (JEM) and lingered at Bright Hall well past 4 Jul, adding to another puzzle piece to the question of the species' status in the Lesser Antilles. Another Striated Heron was identified at Grand Anse beach, Grenada 22 Jun (VWA) and at Spiceland, Grenada 23 Jul (DRa), probably the same bird (AL). These add to reports from St. John, St. Vincent, Puerto Rico, and Guadeloupe. A Little Egret reported from Hato Mayor, Carretera Caño Hondo, Dominican Republic 3 Jun (AM) perhaps indicates spread into the Greater Antilles after establishment in the n. Lesser Antilles. Although the species may be experiencing a contraction of population in the Region, the stronghold of Barbados had one at a pond near Alaska swamp 4 Jul (JM). Four White Ibis and 2 Glossy Ibis were near Wilson Pond, New Providence 29 Jun (WP PD LL); White Ibis was also reported at Hobby Horse Lake, New Providence 22 Jul (JT) and Paradise Island 25 Jul (WP). Thirty White Ibis were seen at Zanglais beach house, Haïti 28 Jun (SC). A single Glossy Ibis was at Wilson Pond 20 Jul (WP). A Roseate Spoonbill was flushed in Shark Creek, Great Harbour Cay, Berry Is-

SA On 21 Jul, whale researchers from the Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Organization at Sandy Point, Abaco discovered an imm. **Black-browed Albatross**. They watched the bird for approximately 30 minutes before returning to their whale studies. The albatross was at 25.959° N, 77.385° W, about 3 km s. of Rocky Point. The sea was calm and the wind was only 7 knots. It swam and approached the boat closely. The next day, the wind had increased, and it could not be relocated. Diane Claridge, Director of the Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Organization, led the expedition, and Harriet Corbett, a visiting biologist, first identified the bird. There are two other reports of this species from the West Indies: on 12 Nov 1956, about 10 were seen off Martinique, one of which was collected (Pinchon 1976); and 2 were seen at 14° 03′ N, 66° 31′ W, about 240 km ne. of Los Roques Islands 6 May 1968 (de Bruijne 1970).



This immature Black-browed Albatross south of Sandy Point, Abaco 21 July 2013 represents the first record for the Bahamas and just the third for the Caribbean. *Photograph by Diane Claridge.*

lands 9 Jul (KJ). A Swallow-tailed Kite was seen over Coral Harbour, New Providence 6 Jun (CW, RF).

A **Black Rail** was heard singing for about five minutes after sunset in abandoned agricultural land sw. of the Marsh Harbour Airport and nw. of Big Bird Poultry Farm 9 Jun (TS, SW); attempts to relocate the bird the next day were unsuccessful. This is the first report of Black Rail from Abaco and the fourth from the Bahamas. Two Clapper Rails were in the unlikely habitat of fill and *Casuarina* trees at Coral Harbour 23 Jun (CW). Single American Oystercatchers were seen on New Providence at Old Fort Bay 8 Jun (WP), Montagu Foreshore 9 Jun (DR), and Goslow-bend 19 Jun (ph. LH). A Black-necked Stilt was last seen on Mid-Ocean G.C., Bermuda 8 Jun (AD). Two Semipalmated Plovers at Arawak Cay, New Providence 19 Jun were unusual at that time of year (ph. LHu). A great find for members of BirdsCaribbean field trip was a **Collared Plover** at Woburn swamp, Grenada 28 Jul (*fide* AL). Shorebird migration was underway in late Jul in variety but not strong numbers. Five Black-bellied Plovers, 3 Semipalmated Plovers, a Piping Plover, a Willet, 4 Semipalmated Sandpipers, a Western Sandpiper, a Least Sandpiper, and 13 Short-billed Dowitchers were counted at the sandspit on Green Turtle Cay, Abaco 28 Jul (EB, TW, BH). An early or lingering Spotted Sandpiper was on Mid-Ocean G.C., Bermuda 8 Jun (AD). At Bermuda, the first returning shorebirds were Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper and Least Sandpiper at Spittal Pond 10 Jul (AD), plus a Spotted Sandpiper at Cooper's Island (MM). A Willet at Spittal Pond, Bermuda 19 Jul was joined by another 20 Jul (AD). Three Whimbrels were at Stock's Harbour, Bermuda 7 Jun (PW), and one was noted at Chancery Lane swamp, Barbados 3 Jun (JEM). Twenty Whimbrels were at Belmont salt pond, Grenadines 19 Jul (KC, MBa, OJ, and SR). Pinder and Moore counted 2 Solitary Sandpipers and 25+ Western Sandpipers along Marshall Rd., New Providence 20 Jul. At Puerto Rico, 40 Least Sandpipers, 8 Pectoral Sandpipers, and 3 Short-billed Dowitchers were at Charca Yeguadas 26 Jul (JSg). A great find at a pond near Alaska, Barbados 20 Jun was Buff-breasted Sandpiper (JW).

GULLS THROUGH GRACKLES

A Great Black-backed Gull was at Arawak Cay, New Providence 15 Jul (WP, PD, LL), and a Lesser Black-backed Gull was there 22 Jul (WP, ph. LH). A Lesser Black-backed summered at St. Georges Harbour, Bermuda (PW). A Bonaparte's Gull was an unusual find 6 Jun at Membrillo, Puerto Rico (JS et al.). Five Roseate Terns were noted e. of Treasure Cay 19 Jun and 28 Jul (EB). The workshop on San Salvador 20 Jun counted 800 Sooty Terns, 400 Brown Noddies, 40 Bridled Terns, 27 Royal Terns, and a Roseate Tern in Graham's Harbour (PM). Bracey and Claridge found 25 Bridled Terns, 2 Sooty Terns, and 3 Brown Noddies off Sandy Point while trying to relocate the albatross 23 Jul. Least Terns were confirmed nesting in Bimini Bay (70 nests) 11 Jul and at Chubb Cay Airport, Berry Islands 18 Jul (JK, KH). A Roseate Tern was seen in Castle Harbour, Bermuda 9 Jul (JM). A Gull-billed Tern was noted at Grand Harbour, George Town, Grand Cayman 27 Jun (PDa). Single Arctic Terns were seen off Bermuda from the *Atlantic Explorer* 15 & 17 Jun (DBW). Five South Polar Skuas and all three jaeger species were seen about 119 km s. of Bermuda 5 Jun (PW). Another South Polar Skua was seen off Bermuda from the *Atlantic Explorer* 17 Jun (DBW).

Gape reports that approximately 500 White-crowned Pigeons flew over her home at San Souci, Nassau every evening this summer. A field trip by BirdsCaribbean members was treated to seeing 6 critically endangered Grenada Doves 24 Jul. A Key West Quail-Dove at Highbourne Cay, Exumas 15 Jul (JK, KH) was unexpected. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Blue Shark G.C., New Providence 16 Jun (BP). Two Ashy-faced Owls, an endemic of Hispaniola, were noted near Hato Mayor, Carretera Caño Hondo 3 Jun (AM). A Short-eared Owl was noted 26 Jul at Sabana Caño Tiburones, Puerto Rico (NG, SC-L). A Burrowing Owl was seen at Coral Harbour 20 Jun (CW, ph. CS). A Common Nighthawk was seen over Admiralty Park, Bermuda 6 Jun (AD). Eight Antillean Nighthawks gathered over Grand Harbour, Georgetown, Grand Cayman 29 Jul (PDa) were apparently on their way south.

An astounding 9 **Fork-tailed Flycatchers** were noted at Rex Resort, Grenada 30 Jul (AL, FD). Bracey estimated over 200 Bahama Swallows were between Sandy Point and Big Bird Poultry Farm in s. Abaco 23 Jul. A Barn Swallow in cen. Abaco 12 Jun was unseasonable (EB). Four Barn Swallows appearing at Port-Louis Swamp, Guadeloupe 4 Jul provided the first summer record there (AL). Twenty Bahama Yellowthroats in abandoned sugar cane fields in s. Abaco made a high count (EB). Five 5 Greater Antillean Bullfinches were at Angelfish Point, Abaco 12 Jun (EB, TS). Ten Rufous-collared Sparrows made a good count at La Vega, Dominican Republic 15 Jul (JE). Ten Hispaniolan Crossbills were at Hoyo de Perdenales, Dominican Republic 7 Jul (HE). A blackbird flock with a Shiny Cowbird and 3 Brown-headed Cowbirds was at the abandoned farm near Treasure Cay 25 Jul (EB, TW, BH). A male Boat-tailed Grackle was seen in the shopping center e. of Sandyport, New Providence 22 Jun (JT).

Addenda: Vieques Island, Puerto Rico has produced several interesting records of late, some of which may help account for island-hopping to the east, i.e., to the Virgin Islands. A Short-eared Owl was seen 20 Jan in a pasture near El Pilon (JN), and up to 73 Adelaide's Warblers were tallied 20-27 Feb (DG, EL). In the case of the warblers, perhaps this island and nearby Culebra are the source of the colonizers recently found nesting at St. Thomas and noted at Reef Bay, St. John (SRu). The continuing reappearance of Brown Pelicans at Cayo Conejo, off Vieques—where 21 juvs. were noted in and another three nests with sitting ads. during the nesting season (DG, EL)—is an encouraging sign.

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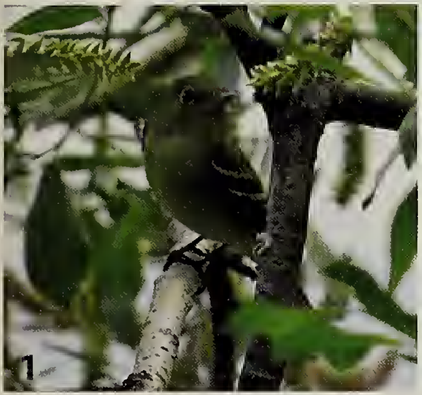
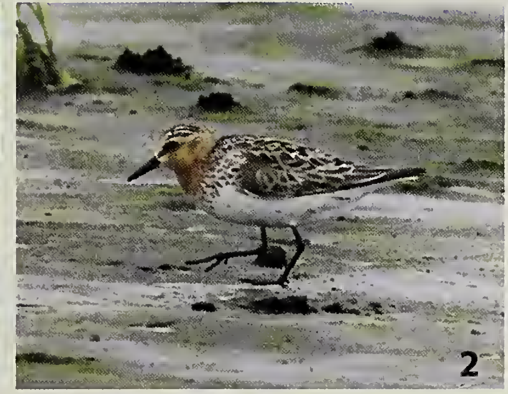
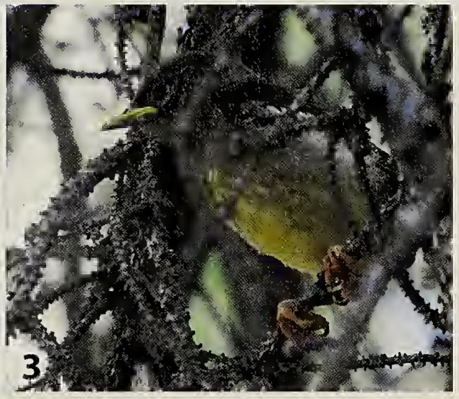
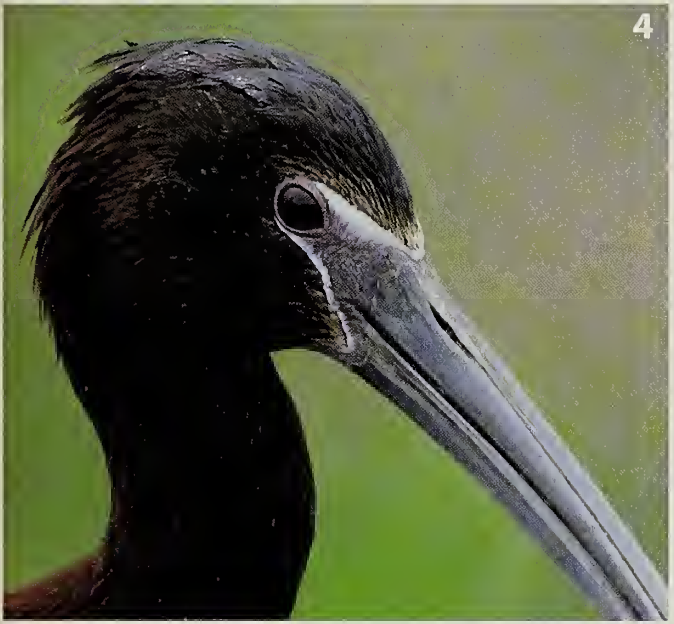
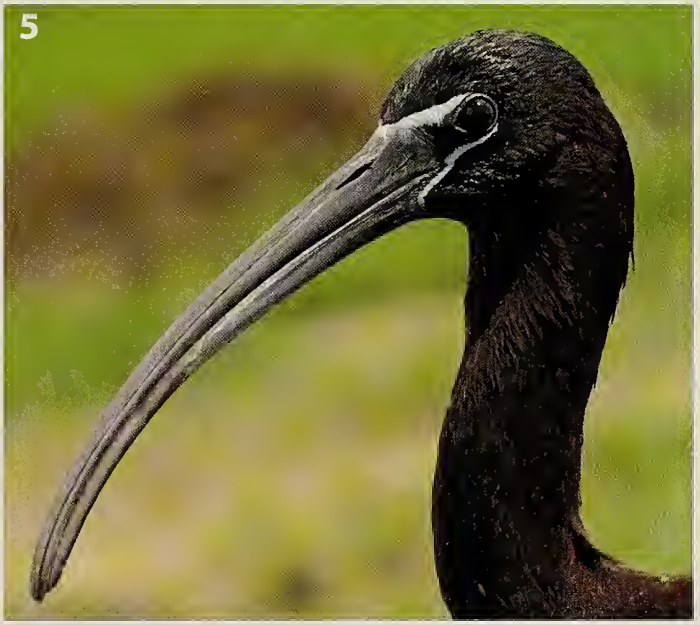
Pictorial Highlights











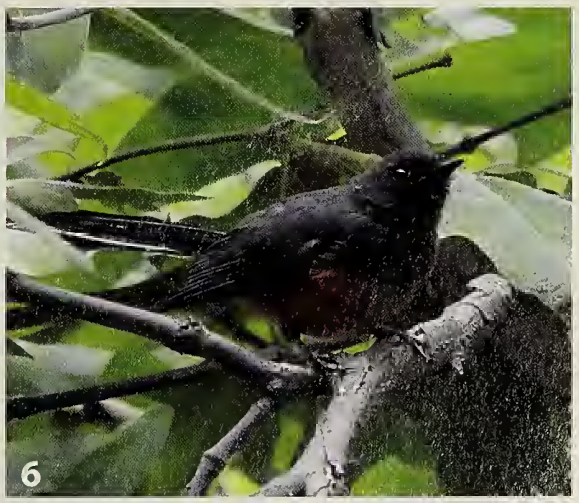
1 • This singing Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Gustavus 16 June 2013 provided a first report for that locality and only about the ninth record for Southeast Alaska. Note the uniformly round eyering, typically teardrop-shaped and thicker at the rear of the eye in Pacific-slope Flycatcher. *Photograph by Bruce B. Paige.*

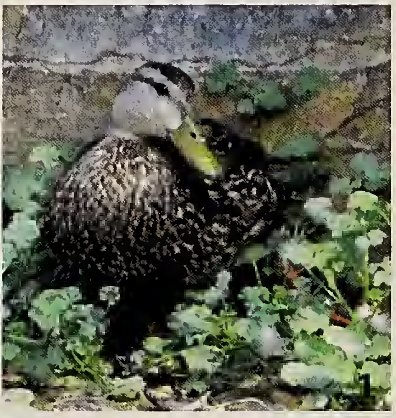
2 • Most records of Red-necked Stints in the Hudson-Delaware region are from late June through July, when breeding plumageis still bright. This bird spent 30 June (here) through 4 July 2013 at Cupsogue County Park, on the south shore of Long Island. Note the lack of palmation between the toes. *Photograph by Ken Feustel.*

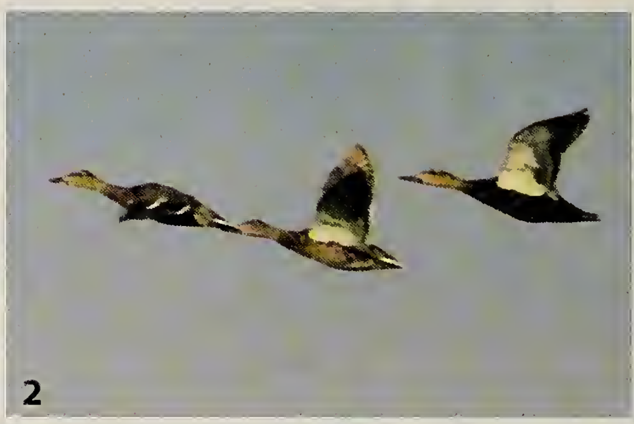
3 • Mark Vail followed a pair of Cape May Warblers on his homestead near milepost 50 of the McCarthy Road in the southeastern interior of Alaska in summer 2013. He found the male in early June, followed by a female, then Alaska's first ever nest in mid-June, and finally fledge juveniles, like this bird observed near the nest site on 15 July. *Photograph by Mark Vail.*

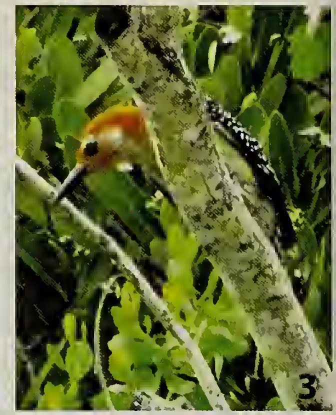
4 & 5 • Glossy Ibis, such as this adult (Image 5) near Thornwell, Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana 2 June 2013, are on the increase in southwestern Louisiana but are still well outnumbered by White-faced Ibis. However, Glossy Ibis x White-faced hybrids, such as this relatively intermediate-looking individual (Image 4), one of several apparent hybrids documented in the same area the same day, may be more numerous than previously realized. Glossy-like hybrids can be easily passed off as pure Glossy as a distance and may muddle the true status of Glossy Ibis in southwestern Louisiana and elsewhere. *Photographs by Donna L. Dittmann.*

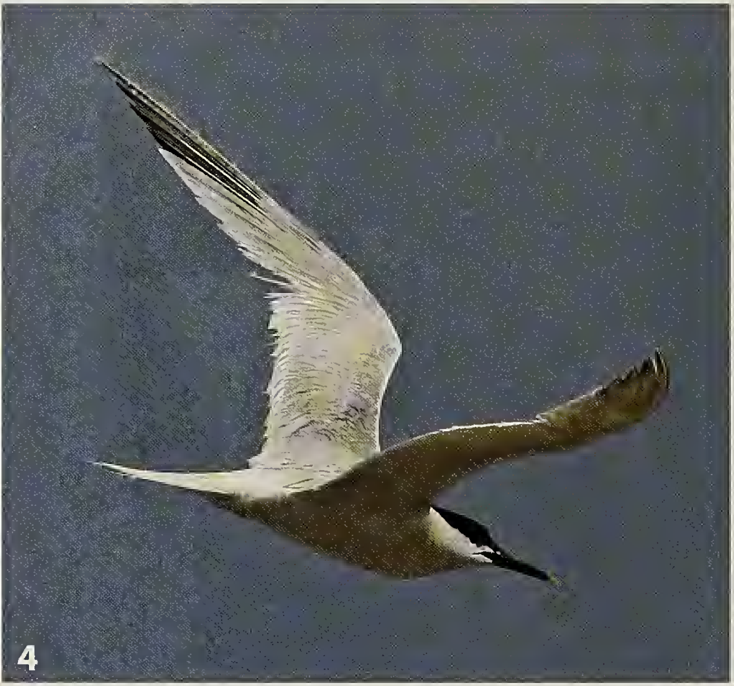
6 • This juvenile Slate-throated Redstart was discovered in Huachuca Canyon 24 July 2013 by Melody Kehl and was very cooperative for several days, allowing numerous birders to enjoy the ninth Arizona record of the species. *Photograph by Lourens Halsey.*

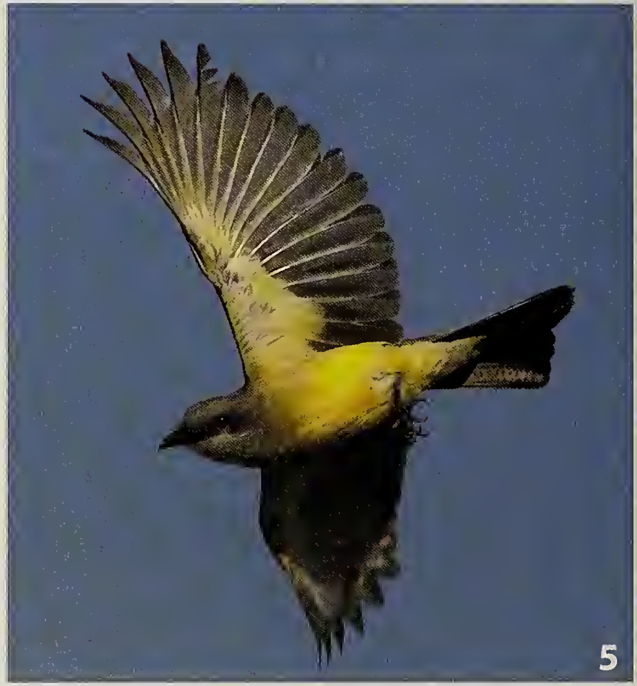


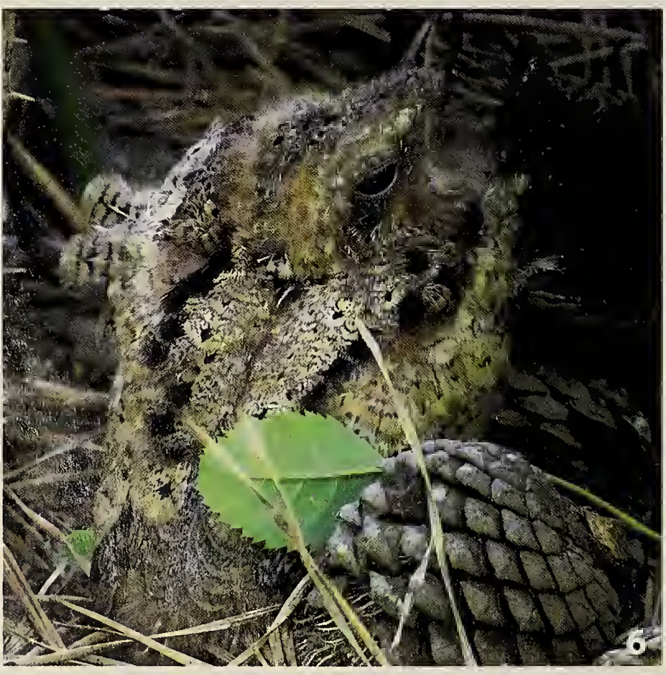












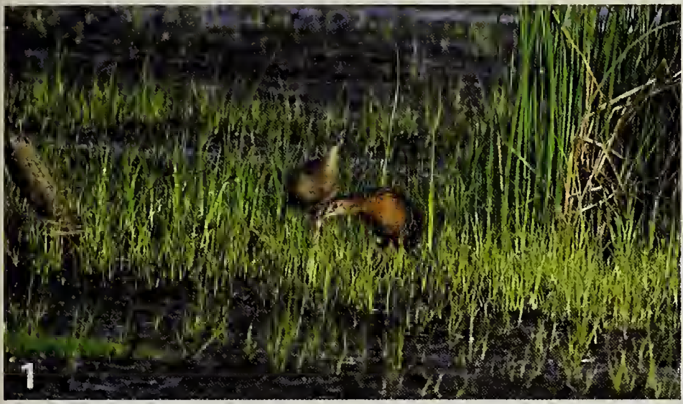
1 & 2 • Prior to 2006, large dark dabbling ducks observed in Colorado were nearly all American Black Ducks or American Black Duck x Mallard hybrids. The state's first accepted record of Mexican Duck in 2006 initiated a trickle of such reports that is becoming at least a rill, if not a stream, with at least nine birds noted in 2013. This individual (Image 1) at Greeley, Weld County 30 June was one of three documented in summer 2013. Meanwhile, another player has entered the large-dark-dabbling duck fray, with Colorado's first well-documented Mottled Duck (Image 2, right-hand bird) found at Andrick Ponds State Wildlife Area, Morgan County 28 July. *Photographs by Steven G. Mlodinow.*

3 • The amount and intensity of orange-red on the face of male Red-bellied Woodpeckers can vary, as this individual at Green Key, Hernando County, Florida 4 July 2013 shows. *Photograph by Ken Tracey.*

4 • An incredible surprise, particularly at a small montane lake, was Colorado's first Sandwich Tern, an adult, at Manitou Lake, *Teller* 27-30 (here 28) June 2013. This individual was, perhaps, the second-most-wayward of this coastal species in the United States, after the September 2010 individual in Illinois. *Photograph by Glenn Walbek.*

5 • Tropical Kingbird was a most unexpected discovery along Gray's Ferry Crescent Trail in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 20 June 2013. Identification was confirmed by vocalizations. *Photograph by George L. Armistead.*

6 • This Chuck-will's-widow chick was discovered in a coastal pine grove at Fire Island National Seashore, Suffolk County, New York on 22 June 2013, near this species' northern breeding limit. *Photograph by Derek Rogers.*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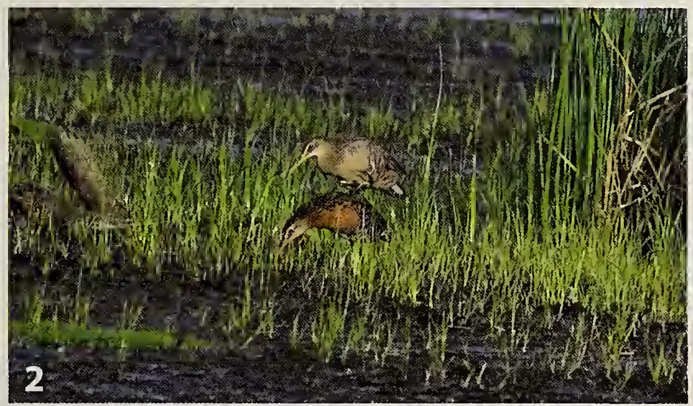
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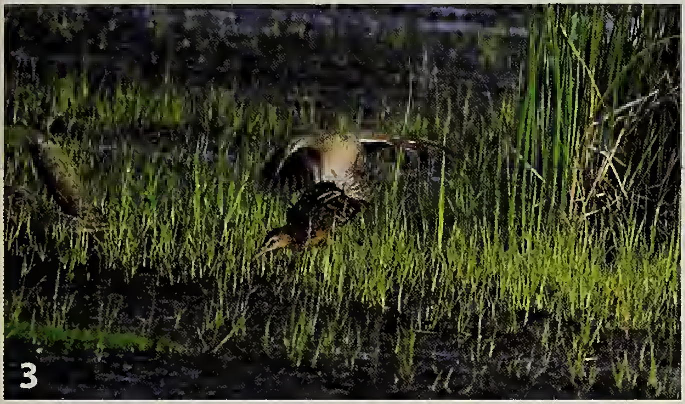
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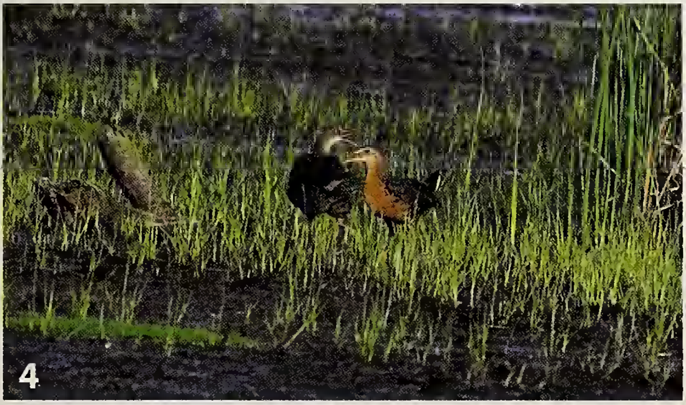
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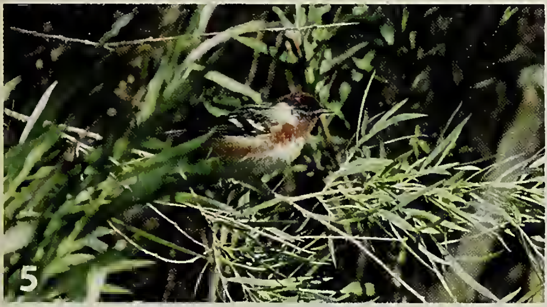
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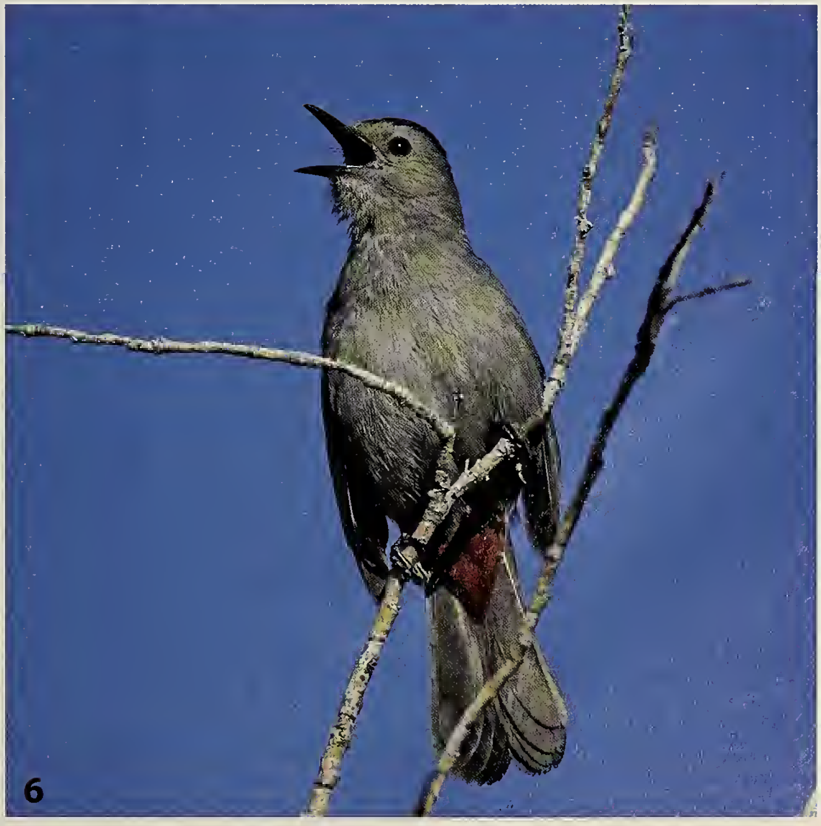
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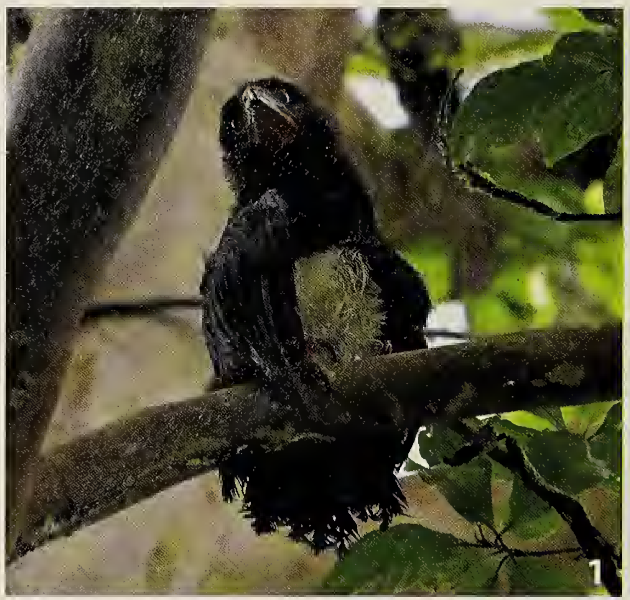
1, 2, 3 & 4 • This male Clapper Rail (upper) mating with a female King Rail was at Truitts Landing, Worcester County, Maryland on 23 June 2013. This marvelous series of photographs should dispell any doubt as to whether King and Clapper hybridize! *Photographs by Robert Ostrowski.*

5 • After flurry of five records 1986-1990, just one more Bay-breasted Warbler was found in Oregon before June 2011, when one appeared at Malheur. This male, making Oregon's eleventh record, was photographed at Fields, Harney County 14 June 2013. *Photograph by Adrian Hinkle.*

6 • This Gray Catbird at Kluane Lake, southwestern Yukon 27-29 (here 29) June 2013 established the territory's first documented record. *Photograph by Cameron Eckert.*



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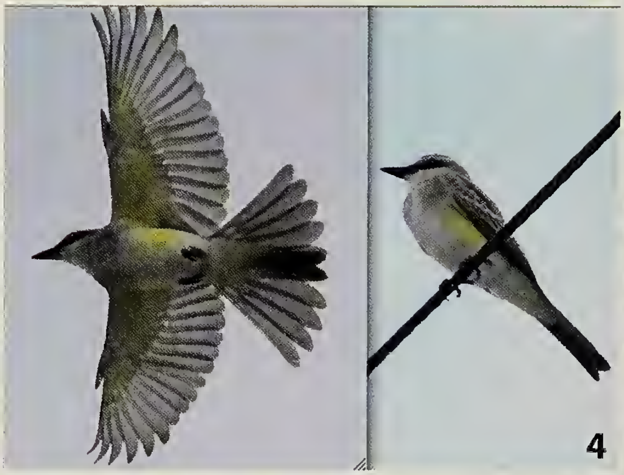

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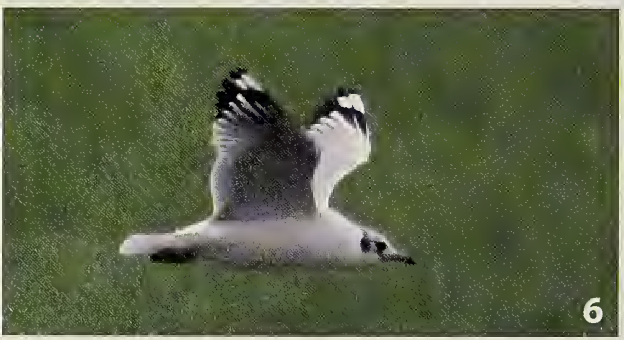

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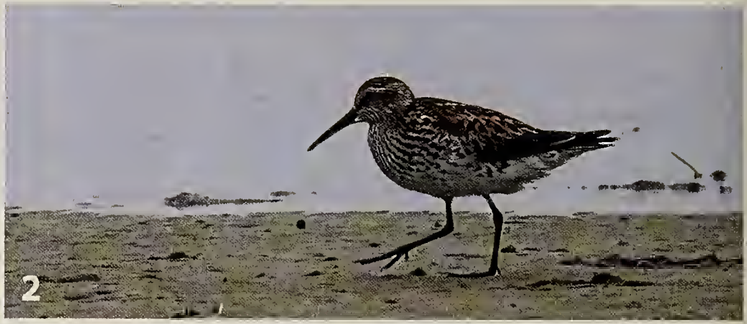
1 • This fledgling Red-throated Caracara found 5 July 2013 in the company of five adults at Finca Marconi in La Garita de Guatuso (25 kilometers northwest of Arenal) was near a small forest patch in broken farmland. Formerly widespread, this inhabitant of forests, forest edges, and plantations was extirpated from most of its range in Central America in the last half-century and has declined sharply in other areas, even from large tracts with ample, apparently suitable habitat. A paper describing the fledgling, its parental care, habitat at and in the vicinity of the nest site, and the diet of these birds is in preparation. *Photograph by Juan Diego Vargas.*

2 • This *Calidris*, thought to be a White-rumped Sandpiper x Dunlin hybrid, attracted attention at Cupsogue County Park, Suffolk County, New York 3-10 (here 3) July 2013. Hybridization between these two species has been reported relatively often in recent years but is seldom so well documented. *Photograph by Andrew Baksh.*



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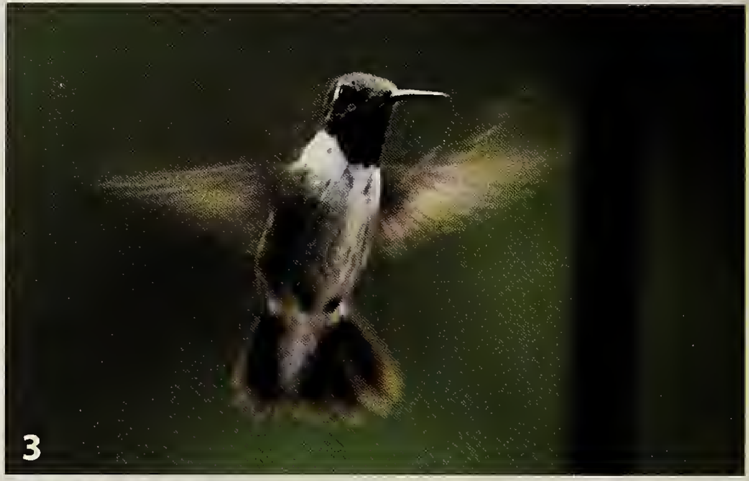

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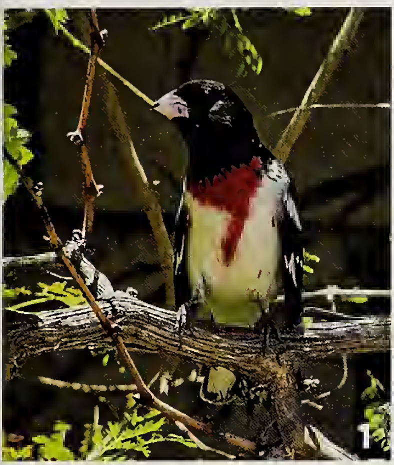
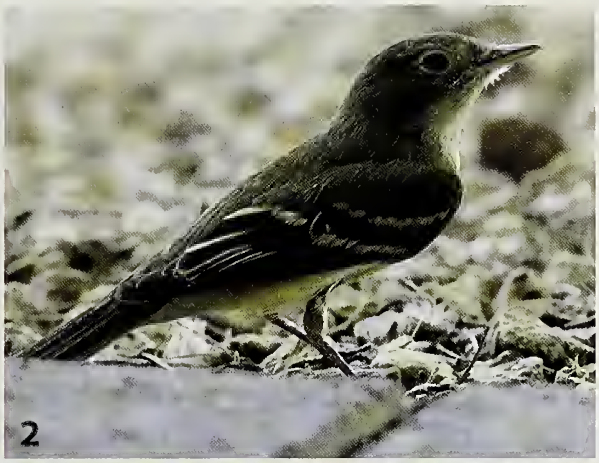
3 • A feeding station on Elk Mountain, Spokane County, Washington hosted two hybrid hummingbirds during the 2013 summer season, including this bird on 30 July, thought to be a Calliope Hummingbird x Black-chinned Hummingbird, the first ever recorded in the Pacific Northwest. *Photograph by Michael Woodruff.*

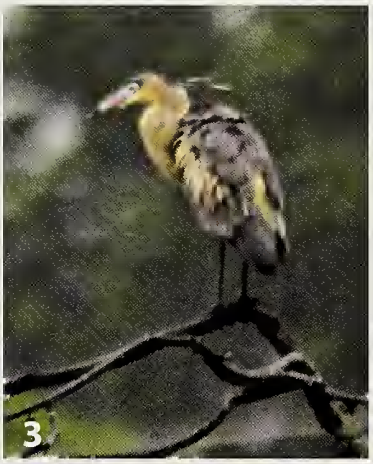
4 • This juvenile kingbird fledged from a Tropical Kingbird nest at Sarasota, Sarasota County, Florida on 29 June 2013, a first for the state. With no male Tropical evident at the time of egg-laying, it is probable that the young were fathered by a nearby Gray Kingbird: the juveniles were largely gray, with yellow restricted mainly to the flanks, as in this individual photographed 1 August 2013. *Photographs by Rick Greenspan.*

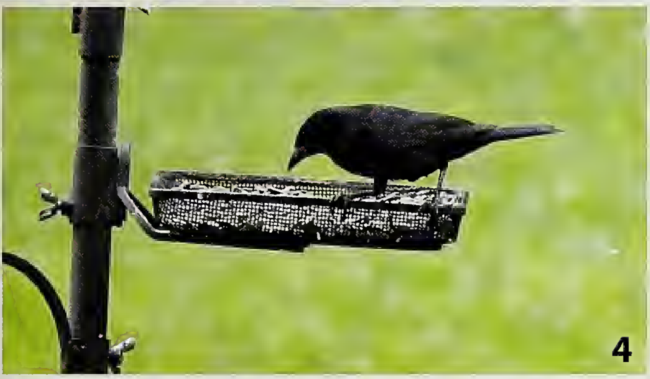
5 • A White-crowned Pigeon discovered by Gretchen Knapp at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Accomack County 8 June 2013, in the wake of Tropical Storm *Andrea*, established Virginia's first record of this species. Although the species clearly has mobility within its Caribbean basin range, and there are a few reports from eastern Yucatan state after hurricanes, it was not on anyone's list of expected hurricane waifs in the mid-Atlantic. *Photograph by Dee Haley.*

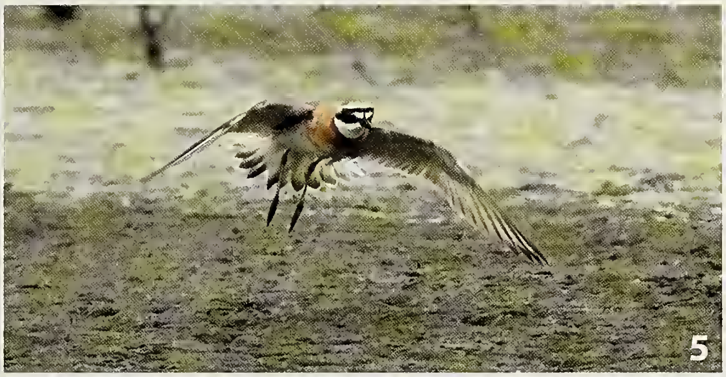
6 • This apparent Black-headed Gull x Ring-billed Gull hybrid was found 12 June 2013 at the edge of a Ring-billed Gull colony at Meinking Marsh, Dickinson County, Iowa. The bird was within 16 kilometers of a site where a pair of Black-headed Gulls was found in 1994 and where singles were reported in summer or fall annually 1996-2009. *Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.*

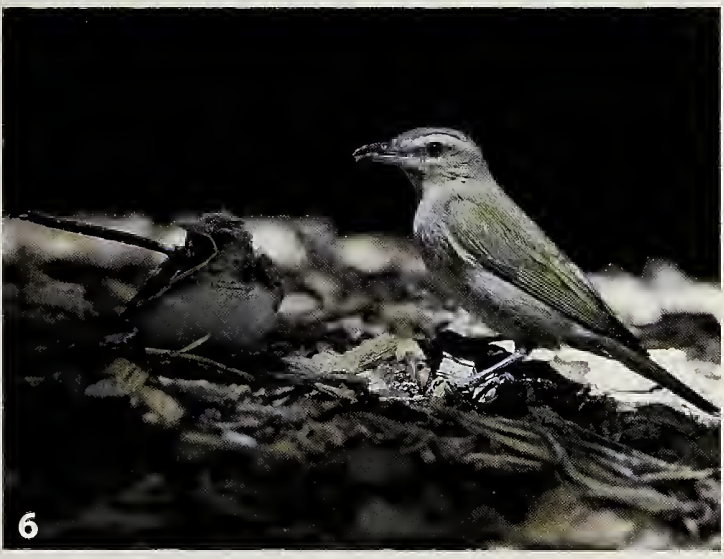


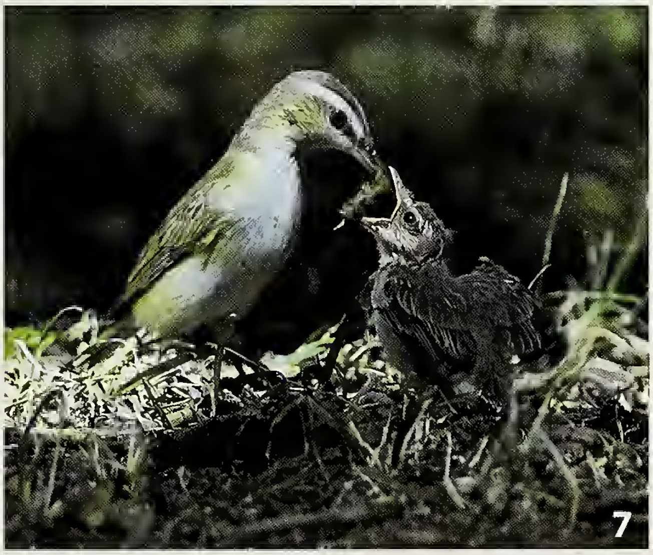












1 • This male Rose-breasted Grosbeak enlivened Puerto San Carlos, Baja California Sur 1 June 2013. *Photograph by Gerardo Marrón.*

2 • Arizona's fourth record of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher came from a Phoenix yard 7 June 2013. *Photograph by Richard Ditch.*

3 • In what proved to be a one-day wonder, North America's first confirmed Whistling Heron was found 11 July 2013 near Chepo in Panamá Province, Panama. Many herons wander widely after breeding, and there is evidence that Whistling Heron, at least in the northern portion of its range, does disperse after breeding. The closest nesters to Panama are in eastern Colombia. *Photograph by Kevin Easley.*

4 • This male Shiny Cowbird spent 2 June 2013 in Adams County, Pennsylvania, a first for the state and one of very few records anywhere north of North Carolina. *Photograph by Linette Mansberger.*

5 • This adult Lesser Sand-Plover on south San Diego Bay, San Diego County 19-24 (here 21) July 2013, was only the third found in the Southern California region. The presence of the thin black line separating the white throat from the rusty red breast, and the fact that the white forehead is split vertically, shows this bird is from the populations breeding in northeastern Asia, most likely *stegmanni*. *Photograph by James R. Morris.*

6 & 7 • At Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, Washoe County, Nevada, a Red-eyed Vireo paired with a Warbling Vireo to produce two young in summer 2013 (here 13 July). Although the hybrid offspring perished a few days after fledging, this is the first Red-eyed Vireo nesting documented in Nevada and apparently the first confirmed hybridization between Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos. *Photographs by Fred Petersen.*

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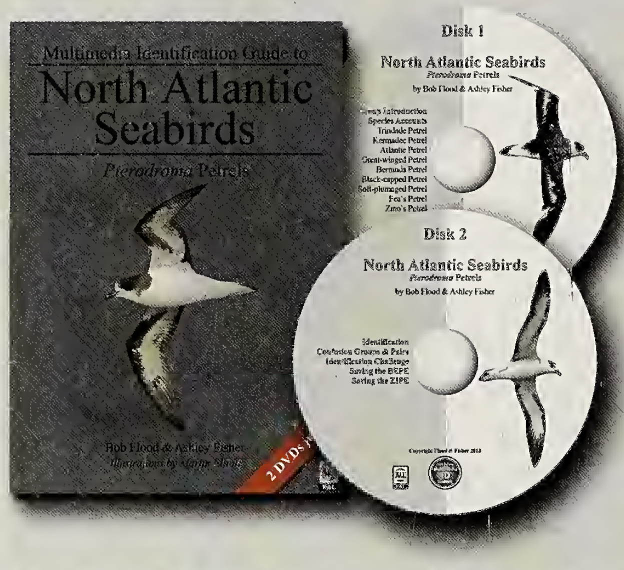
I have been traveling so much this last eighteen months that only this morning did I eventually open the package [containing the guide]. I was going to take just a quick look but soon found myself jumping from species to species and the clock somehow advancing two hours as I turned over pages and played the video sections. This guide will set a new standard in sea birding publications and is surely destined to find wide use by sea birding enthusiasts. The approach is novel, the text succinct and the illustrations by Ian Lewington superb. Add to that the video clips which show the various species in their environment, performing different tasks under differing conditions, and you have a one of a kind book for both expert and novice alike.
Peter Harrison MBE (author *Seabirds: An Identification Guide*)



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As a group the *Pterodromas* pose one of the greatest seabird identification challenges due to their pelagic habits, remote breeding islands, complex plumage patterns, and murky taxonomy. Bob Flood and Ashley Fisher are thus to be congratulated in what surely is the best text and images so far published on the North Atlantic *Pterodromas*. There are over 300 pages of text that simply overflow with not only detail but passion and colorful descriptions so that some *Pterodromas* are "petite," others "brutish." The colour photographs, the majority unpublished, are outstanding and eclipse any collection so far published. Martin Elliot's images are masterful and this is complimented with two DVDs with at-sea coverage and full narration. This is an important publication in seabird literature, it sets new standards, and will increase our understanding of these "winged runners," the *Pterodromas*. Beginners and experts alike will learn much from this quite exceptional publication which has been well-researched and meticulously presented.
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